

BETTER  
SAY





# Better Say

A BOOK OF HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CORRECT USE OF ENGLISH WORDS AND PHRASES

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# KEYS TO PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciations given are indicated by the alphabet devised for pronunciation by the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association, called Key 1, and the well-known text-book key, called Key 2, both of which are used in the *Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary*

## EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

KEY	KEY	KEY	KEY
1	2	1	2
a	ä	ñ	ŋ, ng
å	å	fh	th
a	å	th	th
æ	å, è	s	s, ç
e	é	z	z, s
ɛ	æ, e	ch	ch
i	í, ý	j	j, g
í	é, i, ý	sh	sh, ch
o	o		
ö	ö	zh	
e	ö, å	u	
ë	ö, å	a	a, e, o, u, y (unstressed)
u	ü, o, öö		a, e, i, u, y (unstressed)
ø	ü, o, öö		
ü	ü		
ü, è, i, ý	ü		
ai	I		
au	ou, ow		
iu	ü		
iu	ü		
ü	ü		
ei	öi, öy		
k	k, e		
g	ë		
ñ as in <i>loch</i> (Scotch), <i>ach</i> , <i>mich</i> (German). ñ as in <i>bon</i> (French). ü as in <i>Lübeck</i> (German), <i>Dumas</i> (French).			

The single accent ('') indicates the primary or chief accent; the double accent (") indicates the secondary accent. The double dagger (‡) indicates a variant form.

The abbreviations used are as follows: Ar. = Arabic; Aero. = Aeronautics; Eng. = English; F. = French; G. = German; Gt. Brit. = Great Britain; Mtl. = Military; Rus. = Russian; Serv. = Servian; U. S. = United States.

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# BETTER SAY

[The phonetics of this book are those of the *Revised Scientific Alphabet* devised for pronunciation by the Department of Superintendence of the NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION in consultation with THE AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA and the SIMPLIFIED SPELLING BOARD, and used in Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY. The sounds of the phonetic letters and diacritics will be readily understood by reference to the opposite page.]

## A

**A**, *an.* "No man can be at the same time *a* patriot and traitor." Since "patriot" and "traitor" denote different persons, the article should be repeated; thus, "No man can be at the same time *a* patriot and *a* traitor." Or *both* articles may be omitted; thus, "No man can be at the same time patriot and traitor." See ARTICLES.

**Aar'on**, 1 ār'ən; 2 ār'on, *not* 1 ēr'ən; 2 ār'on.

**ab'a-tis**, 1 ab'a-tis; 2 āb'a-tis, *not* 1 a-bat'is; 2 a-băt'is.

**a-bat-toir'**, 1 a"ba"twär'; 2 ä"bä"twär'.

**ab'jeet**, ab'ject, *not* ab-ject'.

**a-bove'**. "I subscribe to the *above* statement." Better say: "— to the *foregoing* statement," or "— to the statement *given above*," or "*above given*," since *above* is properly an adverb and not an adjective, still less, if possible, a noun. "It appears from the *above*" has no sanction of approved usage.\*

**ab-sorb'**, 1 ab-sér'b'; 2 āb-sôrb', *not* 1 ab-zér'b'; 2 āb-zôrb'.

**ac-eli'mate**, *not* 1 ak'lí-mét; 2 æ'li-mát, *but* 1 a-kłai'mít; 2 ä-eli'mat.

**ac-eou'ter**, ac-eou'tre, 1 a-kü'ter; 2 ä-eu'ter, *not* 1 a-kau'ter; 2 ä-eou'ter.

**ac'eu-rate**, Say 1 ak'yu-rit; 2 åc-yu-rat, *not* 1 ak'er-it; 2 ae'ér-at.

**a-cous'tics**. "Acoustics are a department of science." Better say: "Acoustics is," etc. . . . See NEWS. So dynamics, economics, hydrostatics, hydraulics, metaphysics, politics, etc.

**a-cu'men**, 1 a-kiü'men; 2 a-cü'měn, *not* 1 ak'iü-men; 2 äe'ü-měn.

**ad-dress'**, 1 a-dres'; 2 ä-drës', *not* 1 ad'-res; 2 äd'-rës.

**ad-duce'**, 1 a-diüs'; 2 ä-düç', *not* 1 a-düs'; 2 ä-dööç'.

\* "Above. In the language of business, often used as an adjective, or even as a noun ('the *above* statement,' or 'it appears from the *above*'). Such expressions, though employed by some good writers, have the weight of literary authority against them." Consult *Faulty Diction* as presented in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**adjective or adverb.** As a general rule, if any phrase denoting *manner* could be substituted, the adverb should be used; but if some part of the verb *to be* could be employed as a connective, the adjective is required; as, "The physician felt the pulse *carefully* (*i. e.*, *in a careful manner* or *with care*), and observed that the patient's hand felt *cold* (*i. e.*, *was cold* to the touch)." Hence it is correct to say: "He feels *sad*," "It looks *bad*," "It smells *sweet*," "He stood *erect*." In some cases either form would be correct, and the choice between them is a matter of force, emphasis, or individual taste. "He looked *keen* (had the look of *being keen*),"

"He looked *keenly* (in a *keen manner*) at the applicant," "He looked *sad* (had the look of *being sad*) at the news," "He looked *sadly* (in a *sad manner*, with a *sad glance*) at the ruin." Compare SHARP.

**ad'mi-ra-ble**, 1 ad'mi-ra-bl; 2 ād'mi-ra-bl, *not* 1 ad-mair'a-bl; 2 ād-mir'a-bl.

**ad-mit' of.** "This does not *admit* dispute." Better say: "This does not *admit of* dispute." Unlike *accept* and *permit*, *admit* properly takes *of* in such case.

"Every action *admits* of being outdone."

EMERSON *Essays* first series, p. 209. [HURST & CO.]

In such use, the simple *admit* could not be substituted.\*

**ad'verse**, 1 ad'vūrs; 2 ād'vers, *not* 1 ad-vūrs'; 2 ād-vērs'.

**a-e'ri-al**, 1 ē-i'rī-al; 2 ā-ē'ri-al, *not* 1 I'rī-al; 2 ē'ri-al.

**a'er-o-naut**, 1 ē'ar-o-nēt; 2 ā'er-o-nāt, *not* 1 īr'o-nēt; 2 ēr'o-nāt, *nor* 1 ār'o-nēt; 2 ēr'o-nāt.

**af"fa-bil'i-ty.** Compare note on AFFABLE. Instead of "The salesman was popular because of his *affability*," better say: "— because of his *politeness*, *courtesy*, or other similar phrase.

**af'fa-ble.** "The hackman was very *affable*." Better say: "The hackman was very *good-natured*, *polite*, or *obliging*." *Affable* is used of the bearing of a superior toward one who is socially or otherwise an inferior. A king may be *affable* to a petitioner, a conqueror to a captive, or the like. In a word, *affable* implies condescension.

**Af-ghan"i-s-tan'**, 1 af-gan"i-stan'; 2 āf-ğān"i-stān', *not* 1 af-gan-is'tan; 2 āf-ğān-i'stan.

**a-gain'**, 1 a-gen'; 2 a-ğēn', *never* 1 a-gēn'; 2 a-ğān'.

**a-against'**, 1 a-genst'; 2 a-ğēnst', *never* 1 a-gēnst'; 2 a-ğānst'.

**ag'gra-vate.** "He was terribly *aggravated*." Better say: *Provoked* or *exasperated*. A fever or a misfortune may be aggravated, but not a person.

**ag"ri-cul'tu-ral-ist**, } The shorter form is also the  
**ag"ri-cul'tu-rist**. } better: "He is an *agriculturist*."

\* "Ad-mit', ad-mit' of. Quite different in meaning. 'This gate *admits* to the grounds, but the size of the vehicle will not *admit of* its passing through.'" Consult *Faulty Diction* as presented in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**ain't.** A modification of *am not* or *are not*, always inelegant, becomes atrocious when used for the second or third person; as, "he *ain't*," "*ain't* you?" "*they ain't*." "*He isn't*," "*aren't* you?" "*aren't* they?" are allowable abbreviations. In positive statement, better say: "You're not," "they're not." See AREN'T.

**al-a-pac'a.** A popular error for *alpaca* (pron. 1 al-pak's; 2 äl-pä'e').

**al-bu'men,** 1 al-bü'men; 2 äl-bü'měn, *not* 1 al'biü-men; 2 äl'bü-měn.\*

**a'li-as,** 1 ē'lī-as; 2 ä'lī-as, *not* 1 e-lai'as; 2 a-lī-as.

**al-le'giance,** 1 a-lī'jans; 2 ä-lē'gans, *not* 1 a-lī'ji-əns; 2 ä-lē'gl-ans.

**all of.** "He drank *all of it*." Better say: "He drank it *all*." *All of* is a popular idiom to emphasize the totality of that which is referred to as, "How many of those men did you see?" "I saw *all of them*." "How much of this shall I take?" "*All* (i. e., the whole) *of it*." But the best literary usage omits the *of* as needless, preferring "I saw them *all*," "Take it *all*," etc.

**alm'ond,** 1 ä- or al'mänd; 2 ä- or äl'mond.

**ams,** { 1 ämz, ämz'giv"m; 2 äms, äms'giv"ing, alms'giv"ing, { *not* 1 amz, amz'giv"m; 2 äms, äms'giv"ing.

**a-lu'mi-num,** { Scientific usage varies, but *aluminum* al"u-min'i-um. { appears to be the form now preferred by manufacturers and in commercial speech as well as by most chemists.

**am'a-teur',** 1 am'a-tür' [or -tiür']; 2 äm'a-tür' [or -tür'], *not* 1 am'a-chur; 2 äm'a-chür.

**a-me'na-ble,** 1 a-mi'nə-bl; 2 a-mē'na-bl, *not* 1 a-me'nə-bl; 2 a-mē'na-bl.

**a-men'i-ty,** 1 a-men'i-ti; 2 a-mēn'i-ty, *not* 1 a-mīn'i-ti; 2 a-mēn'i-ty.

**a-mong' one an-oth'er.** "They exchange confidences *among one another*" should be "*among themselves*" or "*with each other*."

**and.** "A language like the French *and* German." There is no language that is at once French and German. Say rather: "A language like the French *or* the German"; or you may use the plural, and say: "Languages like the French *and* the German." Compare THE.

"The tumult *and* the shouting dies."

KIPLING *Recessional*.

This usage may be conceded by poetic license. The

\* Disputed pronunciations in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY were referred to a special Advisory Committee of twenty-five eminent educators in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, India, and South Africa — men who are recognized as scholars of international reputation throughout the English-speaking world. The individual preferences of the members of this committee, as well as of the principal dictionaries, are indicated in every instance in the sections devoted to *Disputed Pronunciations* in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY. The weight of authority is as indicated here.

poet needed a rime for sacrifice. In prose the only construction would be "the tumult and the shouting die." "His valor and patriotism *are* (not *is*) well known." Two or more singular nouns connected by *and* properly take a plural verb, since they form a composite subject. Compare OR.

**an"i-mal'cules.** Plural of ANIMALCULE: sometimes improperly *animalculæ*. (The Latin *singular* is *animalculum*, the plural of which would be *animalcula*. The English form, *animalcule*, with plural *animalcules*, is to be preferred.)

**an-oth'er from.** "Jurisprudence of *another* kind *from* that of Jeffries." Better say: "—of *another* kind *than* that of Jeffries."

**an-tip'o-des,** 1 an-tip'o-diz; 2 ăntĭp'o-dĕs, not 1 an'ti-pōdz; 2 ănt'i-pōds.

**an'y.** "The mother is better than *any* of the family." Better say: "—than *any other one* of the family" or "—than *all the others* (or *all the rest*) of the family." The comparative degree always *excludes* the object compared from among the objects with which it is compared. "The blacksmith is stronger than *any man*" or "stronger than all men," would imply that the blacksmith is not a man. The correct statement would be: "The blacksmith is stronger than *all other men*." He is on one side, and *all other men* (not *all men*) opposed to him. Compare OF ALL OTHERS.

**an'y place.** [Western U. S.] Erroneously for *anywhere*. See PLACE.

**an'y-way, an'y-where.** Frequently misspelled with a superfluous *s*: *anyways, anywhere*. The simple *anyway, anywhere* are the only correct forms.

**a-part'.** "The counsel took the witness *apart* to examine him." *Apart* may mean "away from others"; as, "to go *apart* by oneself." But the word *apart* also means, "part from part, in or to pieces, asunder." Hence its use in the case of persons is liable to unfortunate or comical ambiguity. Better say: "He took the witness *aside* to confer with him."

**a-pos'tle,** 1 a-pes'l; 2 a-pōs'l, not 1 a-pes'tl; 2 a-pōs'tl, nor 1 a-pes'ul; 2 a-pōs'ul.

**ap'o-the'o-sis,** 1 ap'o-fhi'o-sis; 2 ăp'o-thē'o-sis, not 1 a-pef'h'e-ō-sis; 2 a-poth"ē-ō-sis.

**ap-par'ent,** 1 a-pār'ent; 2 ă-pār'ĕnt, not 1 a-pēr'ent; 2 ă-pār'ĕnt.

**ap'pli-ca'ble,** 1 ap'li-ka-bl; 2 ăp'li-ca-bl, not 1 a-plik'a-bl; 2 a-plie'a-bl.

**ap-pre"ci-a'tion,** 1 a-pri"shi-ē'shən; 2 ă-prē"shi-ă'shən, not 1 a-pri"si-ē'shən; 2 ă-prē"si-ă'shən.

**Ar'ab,** 1 ar'əb; 2 ăr'ab, not 1 ē'rəb; 2 ă'răb.

**Ar'a-bic,** 1 ar'a-bik; 2 ăr'a-ble, not 1 a-rē'bik; 2 a-ră'ble; so, gum *ar'a-bic*, 1 gum ar'a-bik; 2 gūm ăr'a-ble, not 1 gum a-rē'bik; 2 gūm a-ră'ble.

**är-bu'tus**, 1 är-biū'tus; 2 är-bū'tüs, *rather than* 1 är'biutus; 2 är'bū-tüs.

**är'du-ous**, 1 är'jū-[or-diū]-us; 2 är'ju-[or-dū]-üs, *not* 1 är'-jus; 2 är'jüs.

**a're-a**, 1 è'rī-a; 2 ä're-a, *not* 1 è'rī; 2 ä're, *nor* 1 är'i: 2 är'e.  
**aren't**. "We aren't sorry"; "you aren't far wrong."

Better say: "We're not," "you're not." When the subject follows, *aren't* is correct; as, "Aren't we (*aren't* you, *aren't* they) right?"

**är-aign'** at, before, for, on, upon. "The criminal was arraigned at the court." No; a criminal is arraigned at the bar; before the tribunal or court; for a crime; on an indictment; upon discovery of his crime.\*

**articles.** Two or more words connected by *and* referring to different things should each have the article, if either has it; when they denote the same thing, the article is commonly used with the first only. "*The black-and-white horse*" would denote one horse marked with the two colors black and white. "*The black and the white horse*" would denote two horses, one black and the other white. Omitting the article altogether, we may say: "Black and white horses are in striking contrast." "Wood and coal are very unlike."

**as fol'low.s.** *As follows* is used to introduce an enumeration, however many the items may be: "Two names were read as follows: 'John,' 'James,'" *not* *as follow.*

**asked**, 1 askt; 2 áskt, *not* 1 ast; 2 åst, *nor* 1 ûst: 2 äst.  
(Sound the *k*.)

**as-pir'ant**, 1 as-pair'ant; 2 ås-pîr'ant, *not* 1 as'pi-rant; 2 ås'pl-rant.

**as — than.** An impossible combination. "The new building is *as* high or higher *than* Trinity steeple." The full and correct statement would be: "The new building is *as* high *as* or higher *than* Trinity steeple." But this seems a stiff and formal phrase, such as might be used in a legal document. Better say: "—*as* high *as* Trinity steeple, *or* higher," "—*or even* higher," "—*if not higher*," or the like.

**åsth'ma**, 1 az'ma; 2 åş'ma.

**at, In.** "He is now living *at* Paris." Say, rather: "He is now living *in* Paris." Always *in* a country; either *at* or *in* a city, town, or village; *at*, if the place is regarded as a point; *in*, if it is inclusive. "We arrive *at* Paris"; "He lives *in* London"; "There are three churches *in* this village." In England the use of *in* before towns and cities is more restricted than in the United States; the distinctions observed there between *at* and *in* often seem arbitrary. The sense of *at* is virtually included in *there* and *where*, so that the repetition of *at* is redundant. See WHERE.

\* The proper use of prepositions has been explained with many practical illustrations throughout the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, a feature of constant helpfulness.

**Ath'ens**, 1 ath'enz; 2 äth'ëns, *not* 1 èsh'enz; 2 äth'ëns, *nor* 1 è'fhnz; 2 ä'thns.

**at length.** The assumption that *at length* means the same as *at last*, and is therefore superfluous, is an error. Both *at length* and *at last* presuppose long waiting; but *at last* views what comes after the waiting as a *finality*; *at length* views it as *intermediate* with reference to action or state that continues, or to results that are yet to follow; as, "I have invited him often, and *at length* he is coming"; "I have invited him often, and *at last* he has come"; *At length* he began to recover"; *At last* he died."

Scarce thus *at length* failed speech recovered sad.

MILTON P. L. bk. iv, l. 357.

O, then, *at last* relent. MILTON P. L. bk. iv, l. 79.\*

**aux-il'i-a-ry**, 1 egz-il'ya-ri; 2 aëg-ìl'ya-ry, *or* 1 egz-il'i-ë-ri; 2 aëg-ìl'i-ä-ry, *not* 1 èx-il'i-ä-ri; 2 ax-il'i-a-ry, *nor* 1 èx-il'ür-i; 2 ax-il'ér-y.

**av'e-nue**, 1 av'a-niü; 2 àv'e-nü, *not* 1 av'nü; 2 àv'nöö.

## B

**back.** "He returned *back*." A pleonasm. *Back* is included in *return*. Say simply: "He *returned*," or "He *came back*."

**bad or badly.** "He felt *badly*." Better say: "He felt *bad*." See ADJECTIVE and ADVERB.

**badly.** "That needs to be mended *badly*." No, it needs to be mended *well*, if at all. To say, "It *badly* needs to be mended," is an allowable colloquialism. Better say: "That *greatly* or *exceedingly* needs to be mended."

**bal'ance.** As an accountant's term, the *balance* is that which must be added to the less or subtracted from the greater of two amounts, *as* receipts and expenses, to make them equal, so as to "*balance*" the account. "The *balance* of one's dinner" and "the *balance* of the evening" should be "*the rest*" or "*the remainder*."

**balm**, 1 bäm; 2 bäm, *not* 1 bam; 2 bäm.

**bay'eu**, 1 bai'ü; 2 bi'ü, *not* 1 bë'yü; 2 bä'yü, *nor* 1 bë-yü'; 2 bä-yü'.

**be back.** "I'll be back in a moment." Better say: "I'll *come back*," or "*be here* (or *there*) *again* in a moment." *Be back* is a common, though unwarranted, colloquialism; "I'll *come back*" is legitimate, *back* denoting direction toward the starting-point; but *be*

\* The method of exact location of every quotation, so that any reader may instantly verify it, and compare the words quoted with the context, has been maintained throughout the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, in its many thousands of quotations.

*back* has no such significance. The approved usage is as above stated, as shown in the following:

Fetch me this herb; and be thou *here again*.  
Ere the leviathan can swim a league.

SHAKESPEARE *Midsummer Night's Dream* act ii, sc. 1, l. 17.

**Be-el'ze-bub**, 1 bi-el'zi-bub; 2 be-ĕl'ze-băb, *not* 1 bel'zi-bub; 2 bĕl'ze-băb.

**Be'lial**, 1 bi'il-al or bil'yal; 2 bĕli-al or bĕl'yal, *not* 1 bli-loi'al; 2 bĕ-li'al.

**"Be that as it will."** Better say: "Be that as it *may*." The latter is the approved form. There is in this case no futurity to be expressed by *will*, and contingency is better expressed by *may*.

**better, had better.** See HAD RATHER.

**between each.** "There were ten boats with a space of twenty feet *between each*." The number of objects governed by *between* can never be less than two; in other words, *between* can not be used of a single object, as in the following:

And with a gap of a whole night *between every one*.

DICKENS *Martin Chuzzlewit* ch. 8, p. 152. [E. & L. '96.]

Better say: "— *between each two*," "— *between every two*," or "— *between one and another*."

**bi'cy-cle**, 1 bai'si-kl; 2 bi'cy-el, *not* 1 bai'sai-kl; 2 bi'cy-el.

**big.** "He's the *big* man of the town." Better say: "— *the chief man*," "— *the leading man*," or "— *the great man*." *Big* is not the equivalent of *great*, and is in many uses a word of less dignity. A *big* man may be very far from being a *great* man. Washington was mentally and spiritually a *great* man, physically a *large* man; but we do not ordinarily speak of the Father of his Country as a *big* man.

**Bis'marek**, 1 bis'märk; 2 bis'märk, *not* 1 biz'märk; 2 bís'-märk.

**blame on.** "Don't *blame that on me*." Better say: "Don't *blame me for that*."

**blas'phe-mous**, 1 blas'fi-mus; 2 blaſ'fe-müs, *not* 1 blas-fi'mus; 2 blas-fē'müs.

**blithe**, 1 blaith or blaith; 2 blith or blith.

**both, a. & pron.** "Both applicants were not accepted." Were both applicants rejected? or was one rejected and the other accepted? or was neither applicant accepted or rejected? The confusion in meaning of a negative sentence containing *both* will be best avoided by making the sentence affirmative: "Both applicants were rejected," "One of the two applicants was rejected and the other accepted," or the like.

**both alike.** "They are *both alike*." Something jars on a good ear in this phrase. What is it? It is the fact that *both* denotes union, while *alike* denotes separation for comparison. We must think of the two things separately in order to see that they are *alike*; we must think of them together in order to refer to them as *both*. Thus the phrase "*both alike*" strikes on a hidden rock.

Better say: "They are *alike*," or "The two are *alike*."

**breth'ren**, 1 breth'ren; 2 brēth'rēn, *not* 1 breth'er-in; 2 brēth'ēr-in, *nor* 1 bruth'rīn; 2 brūth'rīn.

**bring**, { Gardener to Judge in the garden: "Will I **car'ry**. } bring this plant into the house, sir?" A double error. "Will" should be "shall" (see SHALL), and "bring" should be "carry": "Shall I carry it into the house?" "If an object is to be moved from the place we occupy, we say *carry*; if to the place we occupy (or think of ourselves as occupying), we say **BRING**."<sup>\*</sup>

**bro'min**, **bro'mine**. The first form is to be preferred. †  
**by, bye**. We may write either *by the by* or *by the bye*, the last word being a noun. In *by and by*, both the first word and the last are adverbs, and the form should be *by*.

## C

**Cal'ro**. In Egypt, 1 kai'ro; 2 ei'ro; in Illinois, 1 kē'rō; 2 eā'ro.

**cal'eu-late**. Used in parts of the United States for *think* or *suppose*, is a colloquialism.

**cal'dron**, 1 kēl'drōn; 2 eāl'dron, *not* 1 kal'drōn; 2 eāl'dron.

**calm**, 1 kūm; 2 eām, *not* 1 kam; 2 cām. When one says: "There was a great cam," the suggestion is of the *cam* used in machinery. The use of the short *a* (**a**), as in *at* (**at**) in such words as *alms*, *calm*, *palm*, *psalm*, etc., gives the spoken language a disagreeably flat sound, and is to be avoided. Give *a* in these words the full sound as in *fa'ther* (fā'thər)†. The most melodious languages, as the Italian, make great use of broad, open vowels.

**can, may**. "Can I come in?" Better say: "May I come in?" *Can* refers to possibility, *may* to permission.

**ea-price'**, 1 kā-pris'; 2 ea-prīç', *not* 1 kē'pris; 2 eā'prīç.

**el'l'i-ba-cy**, 1 sel'i-be-sī; 2 çēl'i-ba-çy, *not* 1 se-lib'a-sī; 2 çē-lib'a-çy.

\* "A messenger carries a letter to a correspondent, and brings an answer. Take is often used in this sense in place of carry; as, take that letter to the office. Carry often signifies to transport by personal strength, without reference to the direction; as, that is more than he can carry; yet, even so, it would not be admissible to say carry it to me, or carry it here; in such case, we must say bring." See *Synonyms under "CARRY"* in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

† In the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY the spelling of many words in chemistry has been simplified. This was done in harmony with the practise followed by the chemical section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

† An explanation of the *Revised Scientific Alphabet* here used will be found in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, or in any one of its various abridgments. This is believed to be the best alphabetic notation ever devised for phonetic purposes, greatly simplifying all previous systems.

- cem'e-ter-y**, 1 sem'r-ter-i; 2 çem'e-tĕr-y, *not* 1 sem'a-tri  
2 çem'e-try.
- cen-trif'u-gal**, 1 sen-trif'yu-gal; 2 çen-trif'yū-gal, *not* 1  
sen"tri-fiū'gal; 2 çen"tri-fū'gal.
- cer'e-brum**, 1 ser'i-brum; 2 çer'e-brüm, *not* 1 se-rī'brum;  
2 çě-rē'brüm.
- cere'ment**, 1 sīr'ment or mēnt; 2 çér'ment, *not* 1 ser'-  
mēnt; 2 çér'e-mēnt.
- chasm**, 1 kazm; 2 eăsm, *not* 1 kaz'um; 2 eăs'um.
- cho'ral**, } "We are going to form a *co'ral* (1 ker'äl; 2 eō-  
cor'äl. } *ral*) society." You probably mean "a *cho'ral*  
(1 kō'ral; 2 eō'ral) society." "We may have *cho'ral* (1  
kō'ral; 2 eō'ral) singing, or a *cor'äl* (1 ke'räl; 2 eō'ral)  
necklace.
- Chris'tian**, } Begin each of these words with a  
**Chris"ti-an'i-ty**. } capital; so *Christianize*, *Christ-like*,  
*Christmas*, etc.\*
- civ'il**, 1 siv'il; 2 çiv'il, *not* 1 siv'l; 2 çív'l.
- clothes**, 1 klōthz; 2 clōthš, *not* 1 klōz; 2 clōz.
- cog-no'men**, 1 keg-nō'men; 2 eōg-nō'měn, *not* 1 keg'no-  
men; 2 eōg'no-měn.
- cel'umn**, 1 kel'um; 2 eōl'üm, *not* 1 kel'iüm; 2 eōl'üm.
- com'pa-ra-blle**, 1 kem'pə-rə-bl; 2 eōm'pa-ra-bl, *not* 1  
kem-pār'a-bl; 2 eōm-pār'a-bl.
- con-do'lence**, 1 ken-dō'lens; 2 eōn-dō'lēnç, *not* 1 ken'do-  
lens; 2 eōn'do-lēnç.
- con'jure**. Two pronunciations and two corresponding  
meanings, viz. **cen'jure<sup>1</sup>**, 1 kun'jar; 2 eōn'jur, to practise  
magic, effect by magic; **con-Jure<sup>2</sup>**, 1 ken-jür'; 2  
eōn-jür', to make a solemn appeal to.
- con-tempt'i-bly**. For *contemptuously*; as, "He spoke  
*contemptibly* of them". A speech may be *contemptible*  
in its character, while it is also *contemptuous* toward its  
object.
- con'tu-ma-cy**, 1 ken'tiu-ma-si; 2 eōn'tū-ma-çy, *not* 1  
ken-tū'ma-si; 2 eōn-tū'ma-çy.
- con'vex**', 1 ken'veks; 2 eōn'věks, *not* 1 kēn-veks'; 2 eon-  
věks'.
- co're-spond'ent**, } Refer to your *correspondent* with  
**cor're-spond'ent**. } two r's, unless you mean to imply  
that he or she is involved in a suit for divorce.
- cōr'net**, 1 kēr'net; 2 eōr'nēt, *not* 1 kēr-net'; 2 eōr-nēt'.
- cōr'nice**, 1 kēr'nis; 2 eōr'niç, *not* 1 kēr'nish; 2 eōr'nish.
- corps** (1 kōr; 2 eōr), } Do not speak of the editorial  
**corpse** (1 kērps; 2 eōrps). } *corpse* (1 kērps; 2 eōrps), when  
you mean the staff of editors—the *corps* (1 kōr; 2 eōr).  
A general commands an army *corps* (1 kōr; 2 eōr), and  
not an army *corpse* (1 kērps; 2 eōrps).
- cōv'et-ous**, 1 kuv'et-us; 2 eōv'ēt-üs, *not* 1 kuv'e-chus; 2  
eōv'ē-chüs.

\* In the vocabulary of the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY only proper names or proper terms derived from them have been printed with initial capital letters.

**eui'sine**, 1 kwī-zīn'; 2 ewī-sīn', *not* 1 kiū'zīn: 2 eū'sīn.  
**cu'li-na-ry**, 1 kiū'li-nē-ri; 2 eū'li-nā-ry, *not* 1 kul'i-nē-ri;  
 2 eū'l'i-nā-ry.

## D

**dam'age**. Traveler to hackman in Boston: "What's the *damage*?" "No damage, sir. I have brought you safely, have I not? My *charge* is a dollar-and-a-half." To use "*damage*" for "*charge*," "*cost*," "*expense*," or the like, is a vulgarism.

**Da'nish**, 1 dēn'ish: 2 dān'ish, *not* 1 dan'ish: 2 dān'ish.  
**dec'ade**, 1 dek'ēd; 2 dē'ād, *not* 1 də-kēd'; 2 de-eād'.

**de-co'rous**. The dictionaries prefer to pronounce this word 1 di-kō'rūs; 2 de-eō'rūs, though admitting as an alternative the popular pronunciation 1 dek'o-rus; 2 dē'eō-rūs.

**def'i-eit**, 1 def'i-sit; 2 dēf'i-çīt, *not* 1 də-fis'it; 2 de-fis'it.  
**de-mean'**. A popular misuse for *degrade*, *debase*:

"How could he *demean* himself by such a marriage?" To *demean* is properly to *conduct*, *behave* (oneself).

**de'pot**. "I am going to the *depot* to take the train" Better say: "I am going to the *station*," etc. *Depot* means "a storehouse," and has no fitness when applied to a place where cars stop for passengers; that is a *station*, or, in other words, a stopping-place.

**des'ig-nate**, 1 des'ig-nēt; 2 dēs'ig-nāt, *not* 1 dez'ig-nēt; 2 dēz'ig-nāt.

**des'pi-ca-ble**, 1 des'pi-kā-bl; 2 dēs'pi-ea-bl, *not* 1 de-spik'ə-bl; 2 dē-spī'e-a-bl.

**des'ul-to-ry**, 1 des'ul-to-ri; 2 dēs'ül-to-ry, *not* 1 de-sult'o-ri; 2 dē-sült'o-ry.

**dew**, 1 diū; 2 dū, **do**, 1 dū; 2 do, **due**, 1 diū: 2 dū. You may say "*Do* (1 dū; 2 dō) avoid the *dew* (1 diū; 2 dū)"; "There is much to *do* (1 dū; 2 dō)"; "The payment is *due* (1 diū; 2 dū)."

**di'a-mond**, *not* 1 dai'mānd; 2 di'mond, *but* 1 dai'a-mānd; 2 di'a-mond.

**dif'fer-ent than**. "This is a very *different* case *than* that." Better say: "This is a very *different* case *from* that." *Different* denotes distinction or separation (properly indicated by *from*), and not comparison (which would be indicated by *than*): different *from*, better *than*.

**dis-course'**, 1 dis-kōrs'; 2 dīs-eōrs', *not* 1 dis'kōrs; 2 dīs'-eōrs.

**dis-in'ter-est-ed**. "I used to like to go to church, but now I'm entirely *disinterested*." *Uninterested* is the word intended. *Disinterested* means *unselfish*.

**dis'pu-ta-ble**, 1 dis'piu-ta-bl; 2 dīs'pū-ta-bl, *not* 1 dis-piu'ta-bl; 2 dīs-pū'ta-bl.

**dis'pu-tant**, 1 dis'piu-tant; 2 dīs'pū-tant, *not* 1 dis-piu'tant; 2 dīs-pū'tant.

**don'kies.** "Donkies! Janet, *donkies!*" Thus an American edition of Dickens makes Aunt Trotwood exclaim.

The only correct spelling is "donkeys." See PLURALS.  
**don't**, a contraction of *do not*, should be used only in the first person singular or in the plural; as, "They *don't* (do not) care," but "He *doesn't* (not *don't*) know any better"; never, "He *don't*," "It *don't*," or the like.

**dra'ma**, 1 drā'ma; 2 drä'ma, *rather than* 1 dram'ə; 2 dräm'a.

**dram'a-tist**, 1 dram'ə-tist; 2 dräm'a-tist, *not* 1 drēm'ə-tist; 2 dräm'a-tist.

**due**, 1 diū; 2 dū, *not* 1 dū; 2 dy. See DEW.

**du'ty**, 1 diū'ti; 2 dū'ty, *not* dū'ti; 2 dy'ty. See DEW.

## E

**each.** "Each of the men *were* paid a dollar." No: "Each . . . was." Omit the dependent words "of the men," and the correct statement is at once seen to be: "Each (of the men) *was* paid a dollar." Not "Each of the students *have their own room*" but "Each student *has his (or her) own room*." \*

**ef-fect'.** "He said something *of that effect*." No: "— something *to that effect*," i. e., tending to a result or conclusion.

**ef-fect'**, to accomplish, to be carefully distinguished from **af-fect'**, to influence; as, "The union of all good citizens may *effect* (accomplish) a reform"; "The principles adopted at the outset will *affect* (influence) the character of the reform."

**e-lev'en**, 1 i-lev'n; 2 e-lēv'n, *not* 1 i-lev'en; 2 e-lēv'ēn, *nor* 1 lev'n; 2 lēv'n.

**elm**, 1 elm; 2 ēlm, *not* 1 el'əm; 2 ēl'em, *nor* (as sometimes heard) 1 al'əm; 2 āl'em.

**el'o-quence**, 1 el'o-kwens; 2 ēl'o-kwēnç, *not* 1 ēl'o-kwunse'; 2 ēl'o-kwūng.

**else — but.** "It is nothing *else but* pride." An error.

The correct form is: "It is nothing *else than* pride."

**em"ploy-ee'**, 1 em"plei-i' or em"plei-ē'; 2 ēm"plöy-ē' or ēm"plöy-ā. The word *employee* is now fully Anglicized, and best spelled as an English word and pronounced as English, 1 em"plei-i'; 2 ēm"plöy-ē'. As an English word it is a useful correlative of *employer*. The attempt to treat the word as French leads to absurdities: as, "A strike took place among the female *employés*," instead of *employées*, the feminine form. The true French pronunciation of *employé* can not be indicated

\* *Each* and *every* require singular verbs. A violation of this rule is a common form of error. . . . Fitzedward Hall (*Modern English*, ch. iv, p. 117) quotes from Bentley, "The words . . . *every one* of which *were* in print before I used them." This should, of course, be, "*every one . . . was*." "*Each of the men were paid a dollar*"; evidently, "*Each . . . was*."

by English phonetics, and can scarcely be attained by an English tongue. Better plain, downright English than barbarized French. Compare ENVELOPE.

**end'ways.** Better say *endwise*.

**Eng'lish**, 1 *in'glish*; 2 *ɪŋ'glish*, *not* 1 *en'glish*; 2 *ĕn'glish*.  
**en'vel-ope** (1 *en've-lōp*; 2 *ĕn've-lōp*), } Do not say *ĕn'-en'vel-ope* (1 *en-vel'op*; 2 *ĕn-vĕl'op*), } *vel-ōp*, which is **en'vel'op** (1 *en-vel'ap*; 2 *ĕn-vĕl'op*). } neither English nor French. The verb *envelop* (1 *en-vel'ap*; 2 *ĕn-vĕl'op*) or *envelope* (1 *en-vel'op*; 2 *ĕn-vĕl'ōp*) has long been fully Anglicized, and it is best that the noun should be, with one of the three pronunciations given above.

**e'qually as, e'qually as well, e'qually as great, etc.** Omit the *as*, and say: "That will do *equally well*" (or "*quite as well*"): "This will produce misfortune *equally great*."

**equa'tion**, 1 *i-kwē'shan*; 2 *e-kwā'shon*, *rather than* 1 *i-kwē'zən*; 2 *e-kwā'zhün*.

**eq'ui-page**, 1 *ek'wi-pij*; 2 *ĕk'wi-pag*, *not* 1 *e-kwip'ij*; 2 *ĕ-kwip'ag*.

**es'pi-o-nage**, 1 *es'pi-o-nij*; 2 *ĕs'pi-o-nag*, *not* 1 *es-pai'o-nij*; 2 *ĕs-pi'o-nag*.

**es-thet'ic**, } The simpler form *esthetic* is to be preferred.\*

**Eu"ro-pe'an**, 1 *yū"ro-pī'ən*; 2 *yū"ro-pē'ən*, *not* 1 *yū-rō-pi-an*; 2 *yū-rō'pi-an*.

**ex'o-dus.** Properly used of an extensive migration from a country; not "My *exodus* was hasty," but "*My departure*," if away from a place or point; "*My exit*," if *out of* a place, as a room.

**ex'pect'.** "I expect it *is*." Better say: "I think (*believe or suppose*) it *is*." *Expect* refers to the future, usually with the implication of interest or desire. One should not say: "I *expect* it *is*," still less "I *expect* it *was*." We can not *expect* the present or the past. Compare, **HORN**.

**X-pect' like'ly, ex-pect' prob'a-bly.** It is not the expectancy, but the future event, that is *likely* or *probable*. One may say: "I think it is *likely*," "I think it (the act, event, or the *like*) *probable*," or "It seems *likely*" or "*probable*." When another person's expectancy is matter of conjecture, one may say: "You *probably expect* to live many years"; *i. e.* "I think it *probable* that you *expect*," etc.; "Probably you *expect*," etc., would be better.

**ex'pli-ca'ble**, 1 *eks'pli-kā-bl*; 2 *ĕks'pli-ea-bl*, *not* 1 *eks-plik'ə-bl*; 2 *ĕks-plie'a-bl*.

**ex'qui-site**, 1 *eks'kwi-zit*; 2 *ĕks'kwi-ſit*, *not* 1 *eks-kwiz'it*; 2 *ĕks-kwiz'it*.

**ex-tem'po-re**, 1 *eks-tem'po-ri*; 2 *ĕks-tĕm'po-re*, *not* 1 *eks-tem'pōr*; 2 *ĕks-tĕm'pōr*.

\* That there is a drift, conservative yet real, toward the simpler forms of spelling, has been recognized throughout the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

## F

**fa"çade'**, 1 fa"sōd'; 2 fā"çād', *not* 1 fa-kēd'; 2 fā-eād'.  
**fac'et**, 1 fas'et; 2 fāç'ēt, *not* 1 fē'set; 2 fāç'ēt, *nor* 1 fē'zēt;  
 2 fā'zēt.

**fac'ile**, 1 fas'il; 2 fās'il, *not* 1 fē'sil; 2 fā'sil.  
**fal'chion**, 1 fēl'chēn; 2 fal'chon, *not* 1 fal'shun; 2 fāl'shōn.  
**fa-nat'ic**, 1 fē-nat'ik; 2 fa-nāt'ic, *not* 1 fan'a-tik; 2 fān'a-tie.

**fau'cet**, 1 fē'set; 2 fa'çēt, *not* 1 fas'et; 2 fāç'ēt.  
**fa'vor-ite**, 1 fē'vār-it; 2 fā'vor-it, *not* 1 fē'vēr-a-it; 2 fā'vor-it.

**Feb'ru-a-ry**, 1 feb'ru-ē-ri; 2 fēb'ru-ā-ry, *not* 1 feb'yu-ē-ri;  
 2 fēb'yu-ā-ry. (The *r* to be sounded.)

**fem'i-nine**, 1 fem'i-nin; 2 fēm'i-nīn, *not* 1 fem'i-nain; 2 fēm'i-nīn.

**fer'tile**, 1 fēr-tīl; 2 fēr'til, *not* 1 fēr'tail; 2 fēr'tīl.  
**fi-na'le**, 1 fi-nā'lē; 2 fi-nā'lē, *not* 1 fai"nēl; 2 fi"nāl', *nor* 1 fi-nal'r; 2 fi-nāl'i.

**fi-nance'**, 1 fi-nans'; 2 fi-nāñç', *not* 1 fai'nāns; 2 fi'nanç.  
**fin"an-ster'**, 1 fin"an-sir'; 2 fin"āñç-çēr', *or* 1 fi-nan'sir; 2 fi-nāñç-çēr, *not* 1 fai"nan-sir'; 2 fi"nāñ-sēr'.

**first**, { "Sing the two *first* and the two *last* stanzas."  
**last**. } Better say: "— the *first two* and the *last two*."

There may be many *twos* (*threes*, etc.), but there can be only one *first* and one *last*.

**first'ly**, "I remark *firstly*." Better say: "I remark *first*." *First*, being itself an adverb, does not need the *-ly* that is frequently added. In an enumeration say *first*, *secondly*, *thirdly*, etc., rather than *firstly*, etc.

**flae'cid**, 1 flak'sid; 2 flāe'çid, *not* 1 flas'sid; 2 flāç'çid.  
**flor'id**, 1 fier'id; 2 flōr'id, *not* 1 flō'rid; 2 flō'rid.

**for'mi-da-bl** 1 fēr'mi-dā-bl; 2 fōr'mi-da-bl, *not* 1 fer-mid'a-bl; 2 fōr-mīd'a-bl.

**foun'tain**, 1 faun'tin; 2 foun'tin, *not* 1 faun'tn; 2 foun'tn.  
**fron'tis-piece**" 1 fren'tis-pīs"; 2 frōn'tis-pēç", *not* 1 frun'-tis-pīs; 2 frūn'tis-pēç.

**such'sia**, 1 fiū'shā; 2 fū'sha, *or* 1 fuks'i-ə; 2 fūes'i-a, *not* 1 fiū'zə; 2 fū'zha.

**fu'ture**. "His *future* career was prosperous to the *last*." Better say: "His *after*, *later*, or *subsequent* career." *Future* can not properly be used of the past. As well say: "He went to-morrow," after to-morrow has become yesterday.

## G

**gath'er**, 1 gath'ər; 2 ġāth'ər, *not* 1 geth'ər; 2 ġēth'ər.  
**gen'e-al'o-gy**, min"er-al'o-gy. Too often mispronounced as if spelled *geneology*, *minerology*.

**gen'er-al-ly**, 1 jen'ər-əl-i; 2 ġēn'ər-al-y, *not* 1 jen'rūl-i; 2 ġēn'rūl-y.

**gen'u-ine**, 1 jen'yu-in; 2 ġēn'yū-īn, *not* 1 jen'yu-ain; 2 ġēn'yū-īn.

**ge-og'ra-phy**, 1 ji-eg'rə-fi; 2 ge-ōg'ra-fy, not 1 jeg'rə-fi; 2 gög'ra-fy.

**giaour**, 1 jour; 2 gour, not 1 gaur; 2 ġour.

**gib'bous**, 1 gib'us; 2 ġib'ūs, not 1 jib'us; 2 ġib'ūs.

**gen'do-la**, 1 gen'do-la; 2 ġon'do-la, not 1 gen-dō'lā; 2 ġon-dō'lā.

**got**. "Louise!" called the mother to the maid, "why do you cross that child? Let him have what he wants." Then, upon a more piercing scream, "Louise, do you hear me? Let him have it, I say!" "It" proved to be a live wasp. "He's *got* it ma'am," answered with perfect propriety the sorely tried Louise. *Got* is properly used in the sense of *acquired*, *procured*, and the like, but improperly used to express mere possession. When one has been seeking to *get* something, we properly say: "He has *got* it." The dog has *got* the rabbit he has been chasing; he *has* ears and tail which he has had no part in *getting*.

**gov'ern-ment**, 1 guv'ərn-ment or -mant; 2 ġov'ern-mēnt, not 1 guv'ər-munt; 2 ġov'er-münt.

**grad'u-ate**, *v.* Popularly used as signifying "to receive a degree at the end of a course of study; become a graduate." The institution *graduates* the candidate (*i. e.*, admits him to a degree, or marks him with a degree) at the end of a course of instruction; in strict usage, therefore, the man is *graduated*; objection is often made to "He *graduated*," but this double meaning (passive and middle) is frequent, and in this word well established. "He *was graduated*" will still be preferred by many, while others deem that formal and stilted, and prefer to say: "He *graduated*."

**griev'ous**, 1 griv'us; 2 grēv'ūs, not 1 grīv'i-us; 2 grēv'i-ūs, nor 1 grīv'yus; 2 grēv'yūs.

**gri-mace'**, 1 gri-mēs'; 2 gri-māç', not 1 grim'ēs; 2 grīm'-āç.

**grow**. In the sense of *become*, objected to by some critics, especially in what they deem the self-contradictory phrases *to grow small*, is good idiomatic English. Fitzedward Hall (*False Philology*, p. 82) quotes Dr. Johnson as using "*grow fewer*," "*grew able*," "*grow less*," etc., Steele and Gray as using "*grow less*," and Macaulay as using "*grow smaller*."

**guild**. Pronounced 1 gild; 2 ġild, not 1 gaild; 2 ġild. The older spelling *gild* is now revived and by many preferred.

**gy'ro-scope**, 1 jai'ro-skōp; 2 gy'ro-seōp, not 1 gai'ro-skōp; 2 ġy'ro-scōp.



**had have**. Improperly used in such expressions as "*Had I have known it.*" *Had*, used elliptically for *if I had*, itself carries the contingency back into the past, and there is no need of an added *have* to do the same.

thing; yet we hear persons say: "Had I have known it," or "If I had have known it." "Had I known this," "Had he done that," are conditional clauses, each complete in itself as expressing past possibility.

**had (or hadn't) ought.** "He hadn't ought to have done it." Better say: "He ought not to have done it."

*Ought* differs from most English verbs in taking no auxiliaries. "Had ought," "hadn't ought," "don't ought," etc., are monstrosities. The severe simplicity of duty is stated by the simple verb *ought* or *ought not*.

**had rath'er, had bet'ter.** These forms of expression have been disputed by certain grammatical critics from the days of Samuel Johnson, the objectors insisting upon the substitution of *would* or *should*, as the case may demand, for *had*; but *had rather* and *had better* are thoroughly established English idioms having the almost universal popular and literary sanction of centuries.

"I would rather not go" is undoubtedly correct when the purpose is to emphasize the element of choice or will in the matter; but in all ordinary cases "I had rather not go" has the merit of being idiomatic and easily and universally understood.

I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. *Ps. lxxiv, 10.*

If for "You had better stay at home," we substitute "You should better stay at home," an entirely different meaning is expressed, the idea of expediency giving place to that of obligation.\*

**har'ass, 1 har'ss; 2 här'as, not 1 ha-ras'; 2 ha-räs'.**

**Ha-wai'ian, 1 ha-wai'yən; 2 hä-wí'yən, not 1 ha-wé'yən; 2 hä-wā'yən.**

**hearth, 1 härsh; 2 härth, not 1 hürsh; 2 hērth.**

**heath'er, 1 heth'er; 2 hěth'er, not 1 hesh'er; 2 hěth'er.**

**heav'en, 1 hev'n; 2 hěv'n, not 1 hev'en; 1 hěv'en.**

**height, 1 hait; 2 hit, not 1 haith; 2 hitth.**

**Hei'ne, 1 hai'ne; 2 hi'ne, not 1 hain; 2 hin.**

**hel'nous, 1 hē'nus; 2 hé'nüs, not 1 hl'nus; 2 hē'nüs, nor 1 hēn'yus; 2 hen'yüs.**

**helm, 1 helm; 2 hělm, not 1 hel'um; 2 hěl'üm.**

**help.** "I will use no more than I can help." Better say: "— no more than is necessary," "— no more than I must," or the like.†

\* "Would rather may always be substituted for *had rather*. *Might rather* would not have the same meaning. *Would* and *should* do not go well with *better*. In one instance *can* is admissible. 'I can better afford,' because *can* is especially associated with *afford*. We may say *might better*, but it has neither the sanction, the idiomatic force, nor the precise meaning of *had better*." SAMUEL RAMSEY *Eng. Lang. and Gram.* pt. II, ch. 6, p. 413.

† "No more than I can help" is a favorite colloquialism that defies analysis. *Help*, being used in the sense of *avoid* or *prevent*, requires a negative after the comparative with *than*, so that the phrase would regularly be: 'No more than I can not help,' which is harsh, and to many ridiculous. Better avoid the expression." Consult *Faulty Diction* as presented in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**Her-cu'le-an**, 1 hər-kiū'lī-ən; 2 her-eū'le-an, *not* 1 hūr"-kiu-lī'ən; 2 hēr"eu-lē'ən.

**her'o-ine**, 1 her'o-in; 2 hēr'o-in, *not* 1 hī'rō-in; 2 hē'rō-in, *nor* 1 hī'ro-in; 2 hē'ro-in.

**her'o-is'm**, 1 her'o-izm; 2 hēr'o-īsm, *not* 1 hī'ro-izm; 2 hē'-ro-īsm.

**his'to-ry**, 1 his'to-ri; 2 hīs'to-ry, *not* 1 his'tri; 2 hīs'try.

**hoist**, 1 heist; 2 höist, *not* 1 haist; 2 hist.

**hom'age**, 1 hem'ij; 2 höm'āg, *rather than* 1 em'ij 2 öm'āg.

**hope**. "I *hope* he arrived in time." Better say: "I trust he arrived in time." *Hope* refers to the future; "What a man seeth, why doth he yet *hope* for?" (Rom. viii, 24.)\*

**hor'o-scope**, 1 her'o-skōp; 2 hōr'o-seōp, *not* 1 hō'ro-skōp; 2 hō'ro-seōp.

**hos'pi-tal**. Say *hos'pi-tal* (1 hes'pi-tal; 2 hōs'pi-tal), never *ho-spitt'al*, (1 he-spit'el; 2 hö-spit'el). The suggestion of spitting is as uncalled for as it is undesirable. The word *hospital* is from the Latin *hospitális*, of or pertaining to a guest, from *hospes*, a guest, and is too fine a word to spoil. For the same reason, do not say *ho-spit'a-ble* (1 he-spit'a-bl; 2 hö-spit'a-bl), but *hos'pi-ta-ble* (hes'pi-ta-bl; 2 hōs'pi-ta-bl).

**hos'tile**, 1 hes'til; 2 hōs'til, *not* 1 hes'tail; 2 hōs'til.

**how-ev'er**. "However did you come here?" Better say: "How did you *ever* come here?" *However* has proper and elegant use as an adverb; as, "However wise one may be, there are limits to his knowledge." But its use for *how* and *ever* should be avoided as a vulgarism. *However* is also in approved use as a conjunction, being a milder synonym for *nevertheless* or *notwithstanding*; as, "I believed the statement accurate. I find, however, that it contained some errors."

See *Synonyms* under "NOTWITHSTANDING," in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**hun'dred**, 1 hun'dred; 2 hūn'drēd, *not* 1 hun'derd; 2 hūn'-dērd.

## I

**I-de'a**, 1 ai-dl'ə; 2 i-dē'a, *not* 1 ai'dr-ə; 2 i'de-a, *nor* 1 ai-dir'; 2 i-dēr'.

**I-de'al**, 1 ai-dl'el; 2 i-dē'al, *not* 1 ai-dil'; 2 i-dēl'.

**ill'y**, *adv.* The *-ly* is superfluous, since *ill* is itself an adverb as well as an adjective; as, "He behaved *ill*" (*not* *illy*).

**im-bro'glia**, 1 im-brō-lyo: 2 im-brō'lyo, *not* 1 im-brōg'-li-o, 2 im-brōg'li-o.

**In.** See **AT.**

\* "Hope is made up of expectation and desire; we may *desire* what we do not *expect*; we may *expect* what we do not *desire*; we *hope* for what we both *desire* and *expect*." *Synonyms* under "HOPE" in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**in-com'pa-ra-ble**, 1 in-kem'pə-rə-bl; 2 īn-eōm'pa-ra-bl,  
not 1 in"kem-pār'ə-bl; 2 īn"eōm-pār'a-bl.

**in-ex'pli-ca-ble**, 1 in-eks'pli-kə-bl; 2 īn-ēks'pli'-ea-bl, not  
1 in-eks-plik'ə-bl; 2 īn-ēks-plik'e-a-bl.

**in, in'to.** "He fell *in* the pond." No: "He fell *into* the pond." *In* denotes position, state, etc.; *into*, tendency, direction, destination, etc.; as, "I throw the stone *into* the water, and it lies *in* the water."

**in our midst.** A linguistic monstrosity not recognized by any accepted authority, and not—as many persons suppose—found in the Bible. The familiar text, commonly misquoted, reads: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I *in the midst of them*" (Matt. xviii, 20). If the form of expression is changed, better say: "*Among them, among us,*" etc.

**in-quir'y**, 1 in-kwair'ı; 2 īn-kwir'y, not 1 in'kwi-ri; 2 īn-kwi-ry.

**in'ter-est-ed**, 1 in'ter-est-ed; 2 īn'ter-ěst-ěd, not 1 in"ter-est-ed; 2 in-ter-ěst'ěd.

**in'ter-est-ing**, 1 in'ter-est-inj; 2 īn'ter-ěst-ing, not 1 in"-ter-est'inj; 2 īn"ter-ěst'ing.

**in"ter-loc'u-tor**, 1 in"tər-lek'yū-tər [or -ter]; 2 īn"ter-lō'yū-tor, not 1 in"ter-lo-kyū'ter; 2 īn"ter-lo-eyū'tor.

**in-trigue'**, 1 in-trig'; 2 īn-trīg', not 1 in'trīg; 2 īn'trīg.

**in'ven-to"ry**, 1 in'ven-tō'ri; 2 īn'ven-tō"ry, not 1 in'ven-to-ri; 2 īn-vēn-to-ry.

**ir"re-gard'less**. A nondescript word. Say *regardless* or *irrespective*. do not try to blend the two.

**irrep'a-ra-ble**, 1 i-rep'ə-rə-bl; 2 ī-rěp'a-ra-bl, not 1 ir"-rə-pār'ə-bl; 2 īr"ra-pār'a-bl.

**i-tal'ian**, 1 i-tal'yən; 2 i-tăl'yan, not 1 ai-tal'yən; 2 ī-tăl'-yan.

**i-tal'ic**, 1 i-tal'ik; 2 i-tăl'ie, not 1 ai-tal'ik; 2 ī-tăl'ie.

**i'vo-ry**, 1 ai'vo-ri; 2 ī'vo-ry, not 1 ai'vri; 2 ī'vry.

## J

**joc'und**, 1 jek'und; 2 jōe'ünd, not 1 jō'kund; 2 jō'e'ind.  
**just**, 1 just; 2 jüst, not 1 jest; 2 jěst.

## K

**kindly**. "He spoke *kindly*"; "He spoke in a *kind'y* tone." Either is correct, for *kindly* is both adjective and adverb. Compare SOFTLY.

O blessings on his *kindly* heart!

TENNYSON *The May Queen* concl. st. 4.

**kind of.** "I felt *kind of* weak." Better say: "I felt *somewhat* weak," "rather weak," or the like. *Kind of* is not properly an adverbial phrase. Its corruption *kinder* (as *kinder* weak, *kinder* poor, etc.) is simply a low vulgarism. But one may say: "I felt a *kind of* weakness," in which case the noun and the preposition have their proper meaning.

**kind of a (an).** Omit the article. Not "What kind of a man is he?" but "What kind of man?" Not "It is a kind of an animal," but "a kind of animal."

**kitch'en,** 1 kich'en; 2 kich'en not 1 kich'n; 2 kich'n.

**Kra"ka-tau',** 1 krō"kā-tau'; 2 krā"kā-tou', is the approved form of the name of the great Malayan volcano. A recognized variant form is **Kra"ka-to'a**, 1 krū"kā-tō's; 2 krā"kā-tō'a.\*

## L

**la'bel,** 1 lē'bel; 2 lä'bēl, not 1 lē'bl; 2 lä'bēl.

**lam'en-ta-blle,** 1 lam'en-ta-bl; 2 läm'ēn-ta-bl, not 1 la-men'ta-bl; 2 la-mēn'ta-bl.

**La-oc'o-on,** 1 lē-ek'o-en; 2 lä-ōe'o-ōn, not 1 lē'o-kün'; 2 lä'o-cōōn'.

**last,** { "Have you read my *last* book?" was the type-latest. } written reply of a celebrated author to a young lady who asked for his autograph. Her reply was prompt and brief: "I sincerely hope so." Her keen wit won the coveted autograph. *Latest* reaches up to the present, *last* to the end of time. Hence we say: "The *latest* news"; "the *latest* word from our correspondent"; "the *last* words of the dying man."

**last two.** See FIRST.

**Lat'in,** 1 lat'in; 2 lät'īn; not 1 lat'n; 2 lät'n.

**lay,** { "I will *lay* down and rest." No: "I will *lie* down lie. } and rest." But one may say: "I will *lay* my head down on the pillow, and rest." The identity in form of the present tense of *lay*, vt., with the imperfect tense of *lie*, vi., has led to the frequent confounding of the two. The principal parts of the two verbs are:

Present.	Imperfect.	Past Participle.
lay, vt.	laid	laid
lie, vi.	lay	lain

It should be noted that *lay* (present tense), being transitive, is always followed by an object; *lie*, being intransitive, never has an object. *Lay*, in "I *lay* upon thee no other burden," is the present tense of *lay*, vt., having as its object *burden*; in "I *lay* under the sycamore-tree in the cool shade," *lay* is the imperfect tense of *lie*, vi., having no object. *Lay* (imperfect of *lie*) never takes an object; *laid* (imperfect of *lay*) always takes an object. "The soldier *laid* aside his knapsack and *lay* down." *Laid* and *lain* are similarly distinguished. "The hen has *laid* an egg"; "The egg has *lain* (too long) in the nest."

**learn,** { "If I set out to learn a man the river, I'll teach. } *learn him*," said Mark Twain's Mississippi pilot.

\* The decisions of the United States Geographic Board have been followed in the spelling of such names in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, the Committee of that Board kindly consenting to pass upon all words that might from time to time be submitted to them.

He could not be expected to know that he should have said *teach*. The instructor *teaches*, the pupils *learn*.

**learned.** As imperfect and past participle of *learn*, pronounced 1 lürnd; 2 lérnd; as, "He has *learned* his lesson"; as participial adjective, pronounced 1 lürn'ed; 2 lérn'éd; as, "A *learn'ed* (erudite) man."

One not *learn'ed*, save in gracious household ways.

TENNYSON *Princess* can. 7, st. 14.

**leg'ate**, 1 leg'it; 2 lēg'at, *not* 1 li'gét; 2 lē'gät.

**length'ways.** Better say: *lengthwise*.

**ll'chen**, 1 lai'ken; 2 lf'ečn, *rather than* 1 lich'en; 2 lich'ěn.

**llc'o-rice**, 1 lik'o-ris; 2 llc'o-rīč, *not* 1 lik'är-ish; 2 llc'er-ish.

**llle.** See **LAY**.

**like.** "She thinks *like* I do." Better say: "—*as* I do." Not "Do *like* I do," but "Do *as* I do."

**lit'tler**, } Colloquialisms. Better say *less*, *least*, which  
} **lit'tlest**. } are the approved comparative and superlative  
of *little*.

**lives.** "I'd just as *lives* as not." No: say: "I'd just as *lives* as not." *Lives* in such use is a corruption.

**long'-lived**", 1 lēn'-laivd"; 2 lōng'-livd", *not* 1 lēn'-livd"; 2 lōng'-livd".

**love, like.** We *love* that which ministers to our affections; we *like* what ministers to appetite, taste, fancy, etc. A man *loves* his wife and children; he *likes* roast beef, etc.; he *likes* some good-natured acquaintance whom he could not be said to *love*.

**ly-ce'um**, 1 lai-sl'um; 2 ly-çé'üm, *not* 1 loi'si-um; 2 ly'-çe-üm.

## M

**main'te-nance**, 1 mēn'ti-nens; 2 mān'te-nanç, *not* 1 mēn-tēn'ans; 2 mān-tēn'anç.

**ma'tron**, 1 mē'trən; 2 mā'tron, *not* 1 mat'rən; 2 măt'ron.

**mau"so-le'um**, 1 mē"so-li'um; 2 mä"so-lē'üm, *not* 1 mē-sö'lē-um; 2 mä-sö'lē-üm.

**mean, means.** "No other *means* are to be found." Better say: "No other *means* is to be found." *Means* may be either singular or plural, according as we think of one thing or of more than one as intervening between purpose and execution. We may say: "Various *means* were tried," or "This is a *means* to an end." In the example at the opening of the paragraph, we are supposed to have exhausted all means but one; hence, "No other *means* is left." Do not say: "This will be a *mean* (but rather a *means*) to the end." Compare **MEAN**.

**med'i-cine**, 1 med'i-sin; 2 mēd'i-çin, *or* (Brit.) 1 med'-sin; 2 mēd'çin.

**mem'o-ry**, 1 mem'o-ri; 2 mēm'o-ry, *not* 1 mem'rn; 2 mēm'ry.

**mer'cies.** See **PLURALS**.

**mer'ry** (1 mer'ī; 2 mĕr'y), } A common error is to pro-  
**mar'ry** (1 mar'ī; 2 măr.y), } nounce *merry* like *marry*,  
**Ma'ry** (1 mĕ'nī; 2 mā'ry). } whereas it should have the  
 clear short *e*, as in *met*. On the other hand, *Mary* (1  
 mĕ'nī; 2 mă'ry) should have the long *a* (ĕ) as in *sate*.  
 "Mary (1 mĕ'nī; 2 mă'ry) is a *merry* (1 mer'ī; 2 mĕr'y)  
 girl, but she may not *marry* (1 mar'ī; 2 mă'r'y)."

**mes'mer-ize**, 1 mez'mär-aiz; 2 mĕs'mer-iz, *not* 1 mes'-  
 mer-aiz; 2 mĕs'mer-iz.

**min'a-ret**, 1 min'a-ret; 2 mĕn'a-rĕt, *not* 1 min"ə-ret'; 2  
 mĕn"ə-rĕt'.

**mis'chie-vous**, 1 mis'chi-vus; 2 mĕs'chi-vūs, *not* 1 mis'-  
 chi'vus; 2 mĕs'chē'vūs.

**mon'grel**, 1 mun'grel; 2 móñ'grĕl, *not* 1 men'grel; 2 mĕn'-  
 grĕl.

**mon'keys**. See PLURALS.

**mo'-rale'**, 1 mo-räl'; 2 mo-räl', *not* 1 mer'äl; 2 mör'al, *nor*  
 1 mo-räl'; 2 mo-räl'.

## N

**na-ive'**, 1 na-iv'; 2 nä-iv', *not* 1 nēv; 2 nāv.

**na'tion-al**, 1 nash'ən-al; 2 năsh'on-al, *not* 1 nē'shən-al;  
 2 nă'shon-al.

**na"tion-al'i-ty**, 1 nash"ən-al'i-tī; 2 năsh"on-ăl'i-ty.

**nei'ther**. "Neither he nor his wife *were* there." No:  
 "— *was* there." *Neither*, like *either*, when it intro-  
 duces two or more nominatives in the singular number,  
 takes a verb in the singular. "Either John, James, or  
 Henry *was* there"; "Neither Sweden, Spain, *nor* Italy  
*is* a republic." See PLURALS. Compare OR.

**sur-al'gi-a**, 1 niu-ral'jī-ə; 2 nū-răl'gi-a, *not* 1 niu-ral'jī;  
 2 nū-răl'gī.

**neu-rol'o-gy**. "He suffers with *neurology*." But *neuro-*  
*logy* is "the science of the nervous system." Few  
 people suffer with that. Do not substitute *neuralogy*,  
 because there is no such word. The correct statement  
 is: "He suffers with *neuralgia*," i. e., with a painful  
 disease of the nerves.

**new**, 1 niü; 2 nū, *not* 1 nū; 2 nōō.

**new beginner**. "I'm a *new beginner*." Better say,  
 simply: "I'm a *beginner*." The *new* is included in  
*beginner*, and the addition of the adjective is tautologi-  
 cal. The finest utterance is in fewest words.

**news**. "The latest *news* ARE good." Better say:  
 "The latest *news* is good." *News*, while plural in form,  
 is singular in construction. Two friends at one time  
 having a dispute on this matter, agreed to refer it to  
 Horace Greeley. As he was out of the city, the ques-  
 tion was telegraphed to him, "Are there any *news*?"  
 Greeley promptly flashed back the answer: "Not  
 a *new*."

**ni'ce-ty**, 1 nai'si-tī; 2 ni'çe-ty, *not* 1 nais'tī; 2 niç'ty.

**non**"pa-reil', 1 nen"pə-rel'; 2 nōn"pa-rēl', not 1 nen"pa-rēl'; 2 nōn"pa-rēl'.

**nos'trum**, 1 nes'trum; 2 nōs'trūm, not 1 nō'strum; 2 nō'strūm.

**no'ta-ble**, } Do not say: "a no'ta-ble (1 nō'tə-bl; 2 nō'ta-  
not'a-ble. } bl) housewife," but "a not'a-ble (1 net'a-bl;  
2 nōt'a-bl) housewife. **No'ta-ble** means "worthy of  
note"; **not'a-ble** means "clever, prudent."

**no use**. "It was no use to argue with him." Say,  
rather: "It was of no use."

**nui'sance**, 1 niū'səns; 2 nū'sanç, not 1 nū'səns; 2 nōo'-  
sanc.

**numbers**. "*Those* hundred dollars are here." Better  
say: "*That* hundred dollars is here," unless you have  
been counting the coins, and are thinking of them as  
separate units. The rule is that "a multiple, sum, or  
collection of units is treated as a singular." Hence:  
"Three times three is nine";  $5 \times 4 =$  (equals) 20.

## O

**oaths**, 1 öthz; 2 öths, not 1 öths; 2 öths.

**ob'el-isk**, 1 eb'ə-lisk; 2 öb'e-lisk, not 1 öbil-isk; 2 öbel-  
isk.

**o-bes'i-ty**, 1 o-bes'i-ti; 2 o-běs'i-ty, not 1 o-bi'si-ti; 2 o-  
bē-si-ty.

**ob-scen'i-ty**, 1 eb-sen'i-ti; 2 öb-sěn'i-ty, not 1 eb-sin'-  
i-ti; 2 öb-sěn'i-ty.

**ob-so-lete**, 1 eb'so-lit; 2 öb'so-lēt, not 1 eb-so-lit'; 2 öb-  
so-lēt.

**oc-cult'**, 1 e-kult'; 2 ö-cült', not 1 ek'ult; 2 oe'ült.

**of**, } Two prepositions often oddly confounded, espe-  
**off**. } cially by persons of foreign extraction. *Of* properly  
denotes source; as, "I bought the horse *of* the farmer."  
*Off* denotes removal, commonly from the outside; as,  
"To take the crop *off* the land"; "To cut the hair *off* the  
head." "Shall I cut a slice *off* the ham?" is correct;  
"Shall I get a steak *off* the butcher?" is ludicrous.  
Wherever *from* could be substituted, use *of* and not *off*.

**of all others**. "This measure *of all others* ought to  
have been avoided." Better say: "This measure  
*beyond all others*," or "This, *of all* measures, ought to  
have been avoided." The superlative always *includes*  
the object compared *among* the objects with which it  
is compared, while the comparative *excludes* the object  
compared *from among* the objects with which it is  
compared. Thus we say: "The best *of all*," or  
"Better *than all others*. Compare **ANY**.

**off of**. "Cut a yard *off of* the cloth." Better say:  
"Cut a yard *off* the cloth." In *off of* the *of* is redun-  
dant, and hence not in approved use.

**oft'en**, 1 ēf'n; 2 öf'n, not 1 ēf'tən; 2 öf'ten. The *t* and *e*  
are silent.

**o"le-o-mar'ga-rine**, 1 *ō"li-o-mär'ga-rin*; 2 *ō"le-o-mär'-ga-rin*, rather than 1 *ō"li-o-mär'ja-rin*; 2 *ō"le-o-mär'ga-rin*.

**one.** "Not one of our friends were present." Say: "— was present." Omit the dependent words "of our friends," and it is at once seen that we must say: "Not one . . . was present." Compare QUANTITY. We may say: "None of our friends were present," since none can be used in the plural sense.

*None linger now upon the plain.  
Save those who ne'er shall fight again.*

SCOTT *Lady of the Lake* can. 6, st. 18.

**on'er-ous**, 1 *ōn'ar-us*; 2 *ōn'er-üs*, not 1 *ō'ner-us*; 2 *ō'ner-üs*.  
**op-po'nent**, 1 *ō-pō'nent*; 2 *ō-pō'nent*, not 1 *ep'o-nent*; 2 *ōp'o-nēnt*.

**or.** "Matters that he or she are allowed to speak of." Say, rather: "— he or she is allowed." *Or* separates — and unites. Two singular nouns connected by *and* take a plural verb; two singular nouns connected by *or* take a singular verb, because each is a separate subject. See AND.

**or'chid**, 1 *ēr'kid*; 2 *ōr'eid*, not 1 *ēr'chid*; 2 *ōr'chid*.

**or'de-al**, 1 *ōr'di-al*; 2 *ōr'de-al*, not 1 *ēr-dī'al*; 2 *ōr-dē'al*, nor 1 *ēr-dll'*; 2 *ōr-dēl'*.

**O-ri'on**, 1 *ō-rai'an*; 2 *ō-ri'on*, not 1 *ō'ri-on*; 2 *ō'ri-on*.

**our.** In "our house" the sound of *ou* in *our* is the same as that of the *ou* in *house*. Do not say *ār haus*, as if written *are house*, but give full diphthongal sound in both words, *aur haus*. On the other hand, avoid opening the diphthong with the sound of *a* in *at*, as if spelled *auour haous*, which gives an objectionable nasal twang.  
**oust**, 1 *aust*; 2 *oust*, not 1 *ūst*; 2 *ōost*.

## P

**pa-py'rus**, 1 *pa-pai'rūs*; 2 *pa-py'rūs*, not 1 *pap'i-rus*; 2 *pāp'y-rūs*.

**par'a-doxt**. "The statement is a seeming *paradox*." Say simply: "— is a *paradox*." A *paradox* is something that seems at first sight absurd or false; hence the expression "a seeming *paradox*" is pleonastic; it is better to say, "a *paradoxical statement*," or simply, "a *paradox*."

**par'ent**, 1 *pār'ent*; 2 *pār'ēnt*, not 1 *pē'rent*; 2 *pā'rēnt*.

**ped'a-gogue**. A singular variety of pronunciations—resulting in peculiar liability to mispronunciation—is noticeable in the derivatives of this word, thus *ped'a-gogue*, 1 *ped'a-geg*: 2 *pēd'a-gōg*; *ped'a-gog'ic*, 1 *ped'a-gej'ik*; 2 *pēd'a-gōg'ik*; *ped'a-gog-ism*, 1 *ped'a-geg-izm*; 2 *pēd'a-gōg-izm*; *ped'a-go"gy*, 1 *ped'a-gō"ji*; 2 *pēd'a-gō"gy*.

**pen'cil**, 1 *pen'sil*; 2 *pēn'cil*, not 1 *pen'sl*; 2 *pēn'cl*.

**pe'o-ny**, 1 *pi'o-ni*; 2 *pē'o-ny*, not 1 *peō'ni*; 2 *piō'ny*, nor 1 *pai'ni*; 2 *pi'ny*.

**per-mit' of.** "No law to *permit* of the sale of liquor on Sunday will be passed." The correct expression would be: "No law to *permit* the sale of liquor on Sunday." The *of* is needless and unwarranted.

**per-sist'**, 1 *per-sist'*; 2 *per-sist'*, *not* 1 *per-zist'*; 2 *per-sist*. **pil'tar** (1 *pil'er*; 2 *pil'ar*), { Never to be confused. "He *pil'low* (1 *pil'o*; 2 *pil'o*). { laid his head on a *pillar* (1 *pil'ar*; 2 *pil'ar*)" would indicate that he had a stony resting-place. Pronounce *pillow* with clear final *o*. He laid his *pillow* (1 *pil'o*; 2 *pil'o*) at the foot of a *pillar* (1 *pil'ar*; 2 *pil'ar*), and went to sleep."

**place.** Noun used as adverb, "Are you going any *place*?" Say rather, "anywhere." "Where have you been?" "No *place*." Say, "nowhere." Some even say, "go different *places*" instead of "go to different *places*" which latter is the correct form.

**plurals—nouns.** When two nouns are united to form a compound, the first is never pluralized. We say *footstool*, not *feetstool*; *toothache*, not *teethache*; *women-hater*, not *women-hater*. When a noun follows a numeral in a compound word, the noun is not pluralized; as, a *ten-foot* (not *ten-feet*) pole; a *two-mile* (not *two-miles*) race. A compound word generally forms its plural by adding *s* at the end of the whole word, as *handfuls*. See SPOONFUL. Nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel form the plural by adding *s*: as *donkey*, *donkeys*; *chimney*, *chimneys*; *monkey*, *monkeys*, etc. Where the *y* is preceded by a consonant, the *y* is changed into *ie*, and *s* added to this; as *mercy*, *mercies*; *pony*, *ponies*; *supply*, *supplies*.\*

**plurals—verbs.** "The condition of things *were* unfortunate." No: "The condition of things *was* unfortunate." The verb must agree with its *real* subject, which may not be the nearest noun. "Things" is in the objective case, governed by *of*; for a nominative we must go back to *condition*: "The *condition* . . . *was*." Compare AND; OR.

**po'em**, 1 *pō'em*; 2 *pō'ēm*, *never* 1 *pōm*; 2 *pōm*.

**poign'ant.** Prenounced without the *g*, 1 *pein'ent*; 2 *pōin'ant*. So its derivatives, *poignancy* (1 *pein'an-si*; 2 *pōin'an-ḡy*), and *poignantly* (1 *pein'ent-li*; 2 *pōin'ant-ly*).

**Pom-pe'ii**, 1 *pem-pē'yī*; 2 *pōm-pē'yī*, *not* 1 *pem'pi-ai*; 2 *pōm'pē-l*, *nor* 1 *pem-pī'ai*; 2 *pom-pē'i*.

**po'nies.** See PLURALS.

**post, post'ed.** "He is well informed" is better than "He is *posted*."

**po-tā'to**, 1 *po-tē'to*; 2 *po-tā'to*, *not* 1 *po-tē'tə*; 2 *po-tā'ta*, *nor* 1 *per-tē'ter*; 2 *pēr'tā'tēr*.

**prac'ti-cal.** "A *practical* plumber." Better say: "An *experienced* plumber." *Practical* is properly the con-

\* For a full explanation of the correct usage of the singular or plural, either of nouns or verbs, see under PLURAL in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

verse of *theoretical*. Thus a *practical* politician is contrasted with a theorist. But what is a *theoretical* plumber, or a *theoretical* barber? Since every workman must be "practical," if he really works, some word like "skilled," "trained," or "experienced" is a better descriptive term.

**pre-ce'dence**, 1 pri-si'dens; 2 pre-çē'dēnç, *not* 1 pres'i-dens; 2 prēç'e-dēnç.

**pre-ce'dent** (adjective), 1 pri-si'dent; 2 pre-çē'dēnt, *not* 1 pres'i-dent; 2 prēç'e-dēnt.

**prec'e-dent** (noun), 1 pres'i-dent; 2 prēç'e-dēnt.

**pre-dic'a-ment**, 1 pre-dik'a-ment; 2 pre-dīe'a-ment, *not*

1 par-dik'a-ment; 2 per-die'a-ment.

**pref'er-a-ble**, 1 pref'er-a-bl; 2 prēf'er-a-bl, *not* 1 pra-

für'a-bl; 2 pre-fēr'a-bl.

**pres"en-ta'tion**, 1 prez"en-tē'shən; 2 prēç"ēn-tā'shōn, *not* 1 pri"zen tē'shən; 2 prē"şēn-tā'shōn.

**pre-sen'ti-ment**, 1 pri-sen'ti-ment; 2 prē-sēn'ti-ment, *not* 1 pri-sēn'ti-ment; 2 prē-sēn'ti-ment.

**prism**, 1 prizm; 2 prişm, *not* 1 priz'um, 2 pris'üm.

**pris'tine**, 1 pris'tin; 2 pris'tin, *not* 1 pris-tin'; 2 pris-tēn', *still less* 1 pris-tain'; 2 pris-tin'.

**prob'a-bly**, preb'a-bli—three clear syllables—never preb'li; the latter an error so frequent, and so fixed in some minds, that the word is even written *probly*.

**pro-duce'**, 1 pro-diūs'; 2 pro-dūç', } "I am going to

**prod'uce**, 1 pred'yūs; 2 prōd'yüç, } the Pro-duce' (1 pro-diūs'; 2 pro-dūç) Exchange." Surely not. You do not mean an institution to *produce* (1 pro-diūs'; 2 pro-dūç') exchange, but one for the exchange of prod'uce (1 pred'yūs; 2 prōd'yüç'). A few authorities pronounce the noun 1 prō'diūs; 2 prō'dūç, but there is absolutely no authority for placing the accent on the last syllable. We must say, "The Prod'uce (1 pred'yūs; 2 prōd'yüç)—or possibly Pro'duce (1 prō'diūs; 2 prō'dūç)—Exchange."

**pro'gram**, 1 prō'gram; 2 prō'grām, *not* 1 prō'grm; 2 prō'grm, any more than tel'e-gram should be pronounced tel'e-grm.

**pro-ject'ile**, 1 pro-jek'til; 2 pro-jēe'til, *not* 1 pro-jek'tail; 2 pro-jēe'til.

**prom'ise**. Always properly refers to the future; as, "I promise to go"; "I promise to pay." An affected misuse makes it equivalent to *assure*, and even refers it to the past; as, "I was frightened, I promise you": a faulty usage parallel to that of *expect*. See EXPECT. Promise ordinarily refers to something desired or desirable. Hence the odd effect of such a headline as:

"Assassination promised to all officials."

In such case "threatened" would better express the meaning.

**pro-vi'ding**, *not* "Providing he has the money," *but* "Provided he has the money."

**psalm.** Pronounce *not* 1 sam; 2 sām, *but* 1 sām; 2 sām.

See CALM.

**pu'er-ille,** 1 piū'ər-il; 2 pū'er-ll, *not* 1 piū'ər-oil; 2 pū'er-ll, *nor* 1 piū'r'il; 2 pū'r'l.

## Q

**Quad-ru'ma-na,** 1 kwed-rū'mə-na; 2 kwəd-rū'ma-na, *not* 1 kwed-rū-mē'na; 2 kwəd-rū-mā'na.

**quan'ti-ty.** "A great *quantity* of fossil remains *were* found." Say rather: "—*was* found." Omit the dependent words "of fossil remains," and it is at once seen that we must say, "a great *quantity* . . . *was* found." Compare ONE.\*

**quar'rel,** 1 kwer'el; 2 kwər'el, *not* 1 kwerl; 2 kwərl.

**quash,** 1 kwesh; 2 kwash, *not* 1 kwash; 2 kwāsh.

**quite some.** A local colloquialism, wholly indefensible.

**quo'rūm,** 1 kwō'rūm; 2 kwō'rūm, *not* 1 kwə'rūm; 2 kwō'rūm.

**quo'tient,** 1 kwō'shent; 2 kwō'shēnt, *not* 1 kwō'shunt; 2 kwō'shūnt.

## R

**rad'ish.** 1 rad'ish; 2 rād'ish, *not* 1 red'ish; 2 rēd'ish.

**ra-gout'** 1 ru-gū'; 2 rā-ḡū'.

**raise,** { "He was so weak that he could not *raise*." No:  
**rise.** { — so weak that he could not *rise*." "Raise," meaning "to cause to rise," is never to be used intransitively. "He could not *raise* in the saddle"—(*raise* what?); the meaning is: "He could not *rise*." But we correctly say: "He could not *raise* himself, his hand, or his head." Compare LIE and LAY; SIT and SET.

**raise chil'dren.** *Raise*, "to rear (an animal)," is never to be used of bringing human beings to maturity: a misuse common in the southern and western United States. Cattle are *raised*; human beings are *brought up*, or, in older phrase, *reared*. Do not say, with the Westerner, "I have *raised* ten children," nor, with the old slave "Auntie," "I've *raised* thirteen head o' children."

**rare'ly or ev'er.** Incorrect for *rarely if ever*.

**rath'er,** 1 rath'er or rath'ər; 2 rāth'er or rāth'ər, *not* 1 ruth'er; 2 rūth'er. Avoid the vulgarism that converts *I'd rather* into *I druther*.

**ra'tion-al,** 1 rash'en-əl; 2 rāsh'on-al, *not* 1 rē'shun-əl; 2 rā'shūn-al.

**re'al,** 1 ri'əl; 2 rē'əl, *not* 1 ril; 2 rēl.

**re"al-i-za'tion,** 1 ri"əl-i-zē'shən; 2 rē"al-i-zā'shən, *not* 1 ri"əl-aiz-ē'shən; 2 rē"al-Iz-ā'shən.

**re'al-ize,** 1 ri'əl-aiz; 2 rē'əl-iz, *not* 1 ri'lāiz; 2 rē'lā.

**re'al-ly,** 1 ri'əl-i; 2 rē'əl-y, *not* 1 ri'lī; 2 rē'ly.

**reb'el,** 1 reb'el; 2 rēb'el, *not* 1 reb'l; 2 rēb'l.

\* For fuller statement of the rule in such cases, see under PLURAL in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**re-cluse'**, 1 ri-klüs'; 2 re-clüs', *not* 1 ri'klüs; 2 rē'clüs.

**rec'og-nize**, 1 rek'eg-naiz; 2 rē'ög-niz, *not* 1 rek'un-aiz;

2 rē'ün-iz.

**rec"on-nol'ter, rec"on-nol'tre**, 1 rek"ə-nei'ter; 2 ree"-  
ō-nöi'ter, *not* 1 ri"ken-nei'ter; 2 rē"eön-nöi'ter.

**rec're-ant**, 1 rek'ri-ənt; 2 rē're-ant, *not* 1 ri'cri-ənt; 2  
rē'cre-ant.

**rec're-ate**, 1 rek'ri-ät; 2 rē're-ät, *to take recreation*.

**re"ac-re-ate'**, 1 ri"kri-ät': 2 rē-ere-ät', *to create anew*.

**re-demp'tion**, 1 ri-demp'shən; 2 re-děmp'shən, *not* 1 ri-  
dem'shən; 2 re-děm'shən.

**ref'er-ence**. "*In reference to*." Better say: "*With*  
*reference to*," of which the appropriate negative is  
"*without reference to*."

**re-gard'**. "*In regard to that*." Better say: "*With*  
*regard to that*"; or one may say, "*as regards this or*  
*that*." or, "*regarding this or that*."

**rep'tile**, 1 rep'til; 2 rēp'til, *not* 1 rep'tail; 2 rēp'til.

**rere'dos**, 1 ri'r'dos; 2 rēr'dös, *not* 1 ri-ri'dos; 2 re-rē'dös.

**re-source'**, 1 ri-sörs; 2 re-sörç, *not* 1 ri'sörs; 2 rē'sörç.

**re-spect'**. "*In respect to this*." Better say: "*With*  
*respect to this*." Compare REFERENCE; REGARD.

**res'pite**, 1 res'pit; 2 rēs'pit, *not* 1 re'spit; 2 rē'spit.

**re-stor'a-tive**, 1 ri-stor'a-tiv; 2 re-stör'a-tiv, *not* 1 ri-  
ster'a-tiv; 2 re-stör'a-tiv.

**"e-tail'**, *v.t.*, 1 ri-tēl'; 2 re-täl', } "The grocers ri-tēl'  
**de'tail**, *a.* & *n.*, 1 ri-tēl; 2 rē'täl, } sugar at five cents a  
pound when they sell at ri'tēl in ri'tēl stores.

**revisit again**. "*I hope to revisit the place again*."

Say simply: "*— to revisit the place*." The prefix  
*re-* of itself signifies *back*, *again*, *anew*; hence to add one  
of these adverbs to a verb compounded with *re-* is  
tautological. See BACK.

**rhyme**. An old false spelling in imitation of *rhythm*.

The correct spelling *rime* (from the Anglo-Saxon *rim*)  
is now coming to be preferred.

**rhythm**. Pronounced 1 ri-thm or rishm; 2 rŷthm or  
rŷthm *not* 1 rish'm; 2 rŷ'thüm; one syllable, not two.

**right, a.; that's right**.

First Speaker: "The robber shot him in the back, took  
his watch and money, and left him dead in the road."

Second Speaker: "*That's right!*"

It must be a singular code of ethics that would  
call such conduct *right*. The phrase is really meant to  
indicate that the first speaker has stated the facts cor-  
rectly. In such case one had better say: "*That is*  
*(that's) the fact*" or "*that is (that's) true*." "*That's*  
*right*," as now indiscriminately used, is becoming a  
very odious form of slang.

**right, n.** "*If you do that, you've a right to be arrested*."

This use of *right* in the sense of liability is a barbarism.  
The true phrase would be: "*You are liable to be ar-*

*rested*," or, perhaps, "*You deserve to be arrested*."

What a person has a *right* to, he is supposed to desire

or claim, which is not the case when he is told, "You have a *right* to fall and break your neck."

**rime.** The correct spelling for the erroneous *rhyme*. See *RHYME*.

**rind**, 1 raind; 2 rīnd, *not* 1 rind; 2 rīnd.

**risk**, 1 risk; 2 rīsk, *not* 1 resk; rēsk.

**road, coat**, etc. Do not confuse ö, as in "go" with e, as in "obey." Say rōpe (rōp), rōad (rōd), cōat (cōt), etc.

Learning condemns beyond the reach of hope,  
The careless churl that speaks of sōap for sōap:  
Her edict exiles from her fair abode  
The clownish voice that utters rōad for rōad;  
Less stern to him who calls his cōat his cōat,  
And steers his bōat, believing it a bōat,  
She pardoned one, our classic city's boast,  
Who said at Cambridge, mōst instead of mōst,  
But knit her brows and stamped her angry foot  
To hear a Teacher call a root a rōot.

O. W. HOLMES *A Rhymed Lesson* st. 43.

**ro-bust'**, 1 ro-bust'; 2 ro-büst', *not* 1 rō'büst; 2 rō'büst.

**ro-mance'**, 1 ro-mans'; 2 ro-māng', *not* 1 rō'mans; 2 rō'māng.

**roof**, 1 rūf; 2 rōof, *not* 1 ruf; 2 rōof.

**root**, 1 rüt; 2 rōōt, *not* 1 rut; 2 rōōt. That is, the diphthong should be sounded like oo in food, mood, smooth, not like oo in foot.

**route.** The pronunciation rout (as if *rowt*) is possible, but better say rüt (like *root*), as the latter pronunciation is favored by all the chief dictionaries and by a great preponderance of other authorities. See **roor**.\*

**ruse**, 1 rüz; 2 ryü, *not* 1 rüs; 2 ryü.

## S

**sac"ri-le'gious**, 1 sak"ri-li'jus; 2 sāc"ri-lē'gūs, *not* 1 sak"ri-lij'us; 2 sae"ri-līg'üs. Nor should the word be spelled *sacreligious*: the word is not derived from *religion*, but is simply the adjective of *sacrilege*.

**sa-ga'cious**, 1 sā-gē'shus; 2 sa-gā'shüs, *not* 1 sa-gash'us; 2 sa-gāsh'üs.

**said**, 1 sed; 2 sēd, *not* 1 sēd; 2 sēd.

**sales'la'dy**. A hopeless abomination. Why not also "salesgentleman"? If *salesman* is a worthy term to apply to a man, its appropriate counterpart is *saleswoman*, which is the only correct term.

**Sal'ic**, 1 sal'ik; 2 sāl'ie, *not* 1 sē'līk; 2 sā'lie.

**san'guine**, 1 sañ'gwin; 2 săñ'gwin, *not* 1 sañ'gwain; 2 săñ'gwin.

**san"i-ta'ri-um**, } Use either word, but do not try to  
**san"a-to'ri-um**. } blend the two.

**sar"sa-pa-ril'la**, 1 sūr"sa-pe-ril'a; 2 sär"sa-pa-ril'a, *not* 1 sas"-a-pe-ril'a; 2 säs"sa-pa-ril'a.

\* For a full exhibit of the preferences of the various dictionaries, see "route" in Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, where may be found the various pronunciations of this word in its different meanings (p. 2139).

**seal'lop.** By arbitrary exception pronounced 1 *skel'op*; 2 *seal'op*.

**scis'sors,** } In trade usage, all such instruments less  
shears. } than six inches in length are termed *scissors*,  
while all exceeding that length are shears.\*

**seek'el** (variety of pear), 1 *sek'l*; 2 *sěk'l*, not 1 *sik'l*; 2 *sik'l*.

**sec're-ta"ry**, 1 *sek'rī-tē'rī*; 2 *sěc're-tā"ry*, not 1 *sek'u-tē-nī*; 2 *sěe'ū-tā"ry*.

**sel'dom or ev'er.** A person may say: "I *seldom if ever* use that word," i. e., "I *seldom* use it, if indeed I *ever* do so"; or he may say, using a slightly more emphatic form: "I *seldom or never* do it," i. e., "I do it very *seldom* at the utmost, *or* (in my own opinion) probably *never*." Either of the latter is correct, but "*seldom or ever*" is incorrect.

**sep'a-rate.** As verb, 1 *sep'a-rēt*; 2 *sěp'a-rāt*; as adjective, 1 *sep'a-rit*; 2 *sěp'a-rat*; never 1 *sup'a-rēt*; 2 *sǔp'a-rāt*.

**Sup'pu-rate**, 1 *sup'yu-rēt*; 2 *sǔp'yu-rāt*, is a wholly distinct word, meaning "to form pus," etc.

**set, sit.** In strict grammatical usage *sit* is always intransitive when referring to posture; *set*, transitive. The uses meaning "to *sit* on eggs" ("the hen *sets*") and "to *fit*" ("the coat *sets* well or badly") are colloquialisms.

**sew'age,** } "To carry the *sewerage* down-stream."

**sew'er-age.** } By no means. *Sewerage* is the system of sewers; *sewage* is the waste matter carried in them.

You wish a current "to carry the *sewage* down-stream."

**shall,** } "I *will* drown! Nobody *shall* help me!" Every **will.** } one sees that in this stock example, the French-

man should have reversed his auxiliaries, unless he meant to commit suicide. "I *shall* drown! Nobody *will* help me!" would have been a pathetic appeal. Yet the misuse of these little words is very prevalent. The simplest brief explanation is the inflection of the two verbs, viz.:

SIMPLE FUTURE.

I shall

Thou wilt

He will

We shall

You will

They will

PURPOSE, COMMAND,  
OR OBLIGATION.

I will

Thou shalt

He shall

We will

You shall

They shall.†

**sharp.** "At ten o'clock *sharp*"; "Look *sharp*." Effec-

\* In the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, each set of words has been defined or passed upon by a representative of the science or art, or of the handicraft, party or class, or religious denomination, to which the terms respectively belong.

† Thorough and accurate explanation of this difficult usage will be found under SHALL and WILL in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

tive colloquialisms, not in most elegant use, *sharp* in such case being an adverb. See the definition of sharp, *adv.*, in the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

**shrill**, 1 shril; 2 shrill, *not* 1 sril; 2 srill.

**shrine**, 1 shrain; 2 shrin, *not* 1 strain; 2 srin.

**shrink**, 1 shriŋk; 2 shrɪŋk, *not* 1 srɪŋk; 2 srɪŋk.

**shrub**, 1 shrub; 2 shrüb, *not* 1 srub; 2 srüb.

**shrug**, 1 shrug; 2 shrüg, *not* 1 srug; 2 srüg.

**side'ways**. Better say, *sidewise*.

**sigh**, 1 sai; 2 sī, *not* 1 saith; 2 sīth, *nor* 1 saith; 2 sīth (scythe). (The two latter pronunciations are common provincialisms.)

**since**, *adv.*, 1 sins; 2 sīnç, *not* 1 sens; 2 sēnç. Used in the sense of *ago*, it refers to quite recent past time, while *ago* covers past time in general; as, "A messenger was here to see you." "How long *since?*" or "How long *ago?*" But, if one says, "The Spanish Armada was destroyed off the coast of England," to ask "How long *since?*" instead of "How long *ago?*" would have a grotesque effect, as if the event had happened lately.

I brought you word an hour *since*.

SHAKESPEARE *Comedy of Errors* act iv. sc. 3.

"He died a century *ago*."

**sir'up**, **syr'up**, 1 sir'up; 2 sir'üp, *not* 1 sur'up; 2 sur'üp.

**sleek** 1 sl̄k; 2 slēk, *not* 1 slik; 2 slfk.

**slough** (1 sluf; 2 slüf), *the cast skin of a serpent*.

**slough** (1 slau; 2 slou, or 1 slū; 2 sly), *a deep, miry place*.

**soft'ly**. "She spoke in a *softly* tone." No: "She spoke *softly*," or "in a *soft* tone." There are adjectives that terminate in -ly, as *friendly*, *goodly*, *kindly*, etc., but *softly* is always and only an adverb. See *KINDLY*.

N.B.—This is not an extreme case, for the usage condemned is in some popular publications.

**sold'er**, 1 sed'er; 2 sōd'er, *not* 1 sē'dər; 2 sa'der.

**sol'e-cism**, 1 sel'i-sizm; 2 sōl'e-çlsm, *not* 1 sō'le-sizm; 2 sō'lē-çlsm.

**sol'stice**, 1 sel'stis; 2 sōl'stīç, *not* 1 sōl'stis; 2 sōl'stīç.

**sort of**. "I felt *sort of* weak." Better say: "I felt *rather* weak," or "*somewhat* weak." *Sort of* in such use is a colloquialism, and, as corrupted to *sorter*, a vulgarism. One may properly say: "I felt *a sort of* weakness," where the noun *sort* is used as a noun, and not perverted to do duty as an adverb. See *KIND OF*.

**spasm**, 1 spazm; 2 spăsm, *not* 1 spaz'um; 2 spăs'um. See *ELM*.

**spe"ci-al'i-ty**, 1 spesh"i-al'i-ti: 2 spēsh"i-äl'i-ty, } "Chem-

**spe'cial-ty**, 1 spesh'äl-ti: 2 spēsh'al-ty. } istry is

his *speciality*." No: "his *specialty*." *Speciality* is the state or quality of being special; *specialty* is an employment to which one is specially devoted, an article in which one specially deals, or the like.

**spe'ci-es**. The same in singular and plural. Do not

use *specie* as the singular of *species*. *Specie* is a distinct word, meaning *coin*.

**splen'did.** "He is a *splendid* player." Better say: "— a fine, accomplished, or skilful player." *Splendid* is applied properly to something characterized by splendor; hence, its indiscriminate application to anything admired or agreeable, as "a *splendid* man," "a *splendid* dinner," "a *splendid* bargain," is a gross misuse.

**spoon'fuls.** "Take three *spoonful*s." Better say: "Take three *spoonfuls*," unless you mean that the spoons are to be taken. *Spoonful* is a word meaning the contents of a spoon or what a spoon will hold. When the *spoonful* is taken, the spoon is left. There may be a *spoonful* with no spoon, as at the bottom of a cup after drinking. Give *spoonful* its own plural, which is *spoonfuls*. The same rule holds of *armful*, *cupful*, *mouthful*, etc.

**stead'i-ly**, 1 stēd'i-ly; 2 stēd'i-ly, not 1 stid'i-ly; 2 stid'i-ly.  
**stead'y**, 1 stēd'i; 2 stēd'y, not 1 stid'i; 2 stid'y.

**stop**, { "He is stopping in Washington this winter."  
**stay**. } Better say: "He is staying in Washington." To

*stop* is to cease moving or acting: the reverse of *start*. "I shall *stop* at Baltimore on my way to Washington" is correct; but "How long will you *stop*?" is as unreasonable a question as "How long will you *start*?" The proper question is: "How long will you *stay* (or remain)?"

The true meaning of the word *stop* was well understood by the man who did *not* invite his professed friend to visit him: "If you come, at any time, within ten miles of my house, just *stop*."

MATHEWS *Words, Their Use and Abuse*, ch. xiv, p. 359.

**strat'e-gist**, 1 strat'1-jist; 2 strät'e-gist, not 1 strē-tl'jist;  
 2 strā-tē'gist.

**strength**, 1 strenght; 2 strēngth, not 1 strengh; 2 strēnþt.  
**stu'pid**, 1 stiū'pid; 2 stū'pid, not 1 stū'pid; 2 stōō'pid.

**suav'i-ty**, 1 swav'i-ti; 2 swäv'i-ty, not 1 sū-av'i-ti; 2  
 sōō-ăv'i-ty.

**sub-scribe'**. "I have subscribed to that magazine."

No, you have subscribed for it. One subscribes to a creed, statement, or proposition, for a periodical, etc.

**such**. "I never have seen *such* a man" means "I never have seen a man like that one in appearance or character." "I never have seen *such* a tall man" may be intended to mean "I never have seen a tall man like this one in appearance or character," in which case the form is allowable; or it may mean "I never have seen so tall a man," in which case the meaning should be so expressed.

**sug-gest'**, 1 sug-jest'; 2 sūg-gëst', not 1 suj-jest'; 2 sūg-gëst'.

**suite**, 1 swit; 2 swit, not 1 süt; 2 sōōt.

**sup'ple**, 1 sup'l; 2 sūp'l, not 1 sū'pl; 2 sōō'pl.

**sup-plies'**. See PLURALS.

**sure.** "I'm going *sure*." Better say: "I'm *surely* going." Do not say: "*Sure enough*, that's the same man," but "*surely*" or "*certainly*."

## T

**tap'es-try**, 1 tap'es-tri; 2 tăp'ĕs-try, *not* 1 tēp'es-tri; 2 tăp'ĕs-try, *nor* 1 tap'stri; 2 tăp'stry, *nor* 1 tep'stri; 2 tēp'stry.

**ta-ran'tu-la**, 1 te-ran'tiu-lə; 2 ta-răñ'tū-la, *not* 1 tar-an-tiu'lə; 2 tăr-ăñ-tū-la.

**te'di-ous**, 1 tī-di-us; 2 tē-di-ŭs, *not* 1 tī'jus; 2 tē-gūs.

**teeth'ache**". "He has the *teethache*." No: "He has the *toothache*," however many teeth may be aching. See PLURALS.

**the.** Error by omission. "The choice is between the army and navy." This would seem to imply that army and navy were one. Say either, "The choice is between *the* army and *the* navy," or omitting both articles, "The choice is between army and navy." See ARTICLES.

**their**, } "If any one has been overlooked *they* may raise  
they. } *their* hand." Better say something quite different, for "any one" can not be "they." This error arises from the lack, in our language, of a singular pronoun of common gender. No one but a lawyer would care to say "if any one has been overlooked, *he* or *she* may raise *his* or *her* hand." The common solutions are: (1) To alter the construction, using the definite article, where it is necessary, instead of the pronoun; as, "Any one who has been overlooked may raise *the* hand," or "if any of you have been overlooked you may raise *your* hand." (2) To use *he* in its general sense as representing both masculine and feminine.

**tho**, } The shorter and simpler form, *tho*, is now  
**though**. } gaining wide use and approval.\*

**thou'sand**, 1 thau'zənd; 2 thou'sand, *not* 1 thau'zən; 2 thou'ṣan.

**tik'lish**, 1 tik'lish; 2 tik'lish, *not* 1 tik'l-ish; 2 tăk'l-išh.  
**ti'ny**, 1 tai'nī; 2 ti'ny, *not* 1 tī'nī; 2 tē'ny, *nor* 1 tin'i; 2 tīn'y.

**tooth'ache**", *not* teeth'ache." See PLURALS.

**trans'mi-grate**, 1 trans'mi-grēt; 2 trăns'mi-grāt, *not* 1 trans-mai'grēt; 2 trăns-mī'grāt.

**trans-par'ent**, 1 trans-păr'ent; 2 trăns-păr'ěnt, *not* 1 trans-pē'rent; 2 trăns-pā'rěnt.

**trans-pire'**. "The earthquake *transpired* on the 22d." Impossible! When there is an earthquake, people are likely to know it on the instant. *Transpire* is used of something hidden or unobserved that comes to light;

\* In the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY are included several thousands of the simplified forms of words recommended for adoption by the Simplified Spelling Board and the American Philological Association.

as, "He was supposed to be rich, but after his death it transpired that he was bankrupt." Events *take place*, occur, happen. "The earthquake occurred on the 22d." **trek**, { The first is the preferred form of this South-treck, } African word, as derived from the Dutch *trekken*, draw.\*

**tre-men'dous**, 1 tri-men'dus; 2 tre-měn'düs, not 1 tri-men'-jus; 2 tre-měn'-jüs.

**trod, trodden**. "You have trodden (not *trod*) on my foot." In poetry the use of *trod* as past participle is not uncommon.

**true**, 1 trū; 2 trü, not 1 triū; 2 trū.

**truths**, 1 trūfhs; 2 trüths, not 1 triūthz; 2 trüths.

**Tues'day**, 1 tiüz'di; 2 tüs'dy, not 1 tüs'di; 1 toos'dy, nor 1 chiüz'di; 2 chüs'dy.

**tune**, 1 tiün; 2 tün, not 1 tün; 2 toon.

## U

**un-**. In the use of words beginning with *un-* as expressive of negation, care must be taken not to join them in the same construction with antecedent negatives. "The policy of the company was announced in *no unmistakable language*." "*No* unmistakable language" is, of course, "*mistakable* (or ambiguous) language"—the reverse of what the speaker or writer of the sentence meant to say. A similar caution applies to words beginning with *in-*. "He was not *indifferent*," meaning that he cared.

**u-nique'**. We may say *quite unique* if we use *quite* in its full sense of "totally, perfectly," meaning absolutely singular or without parallel, but we can not properly say *very unique*.

**un-wa'ry**, 1 un-wē'rī; ün-wā'ry, not 1 un-wär'i; 2 ün-wär'y.

**ur-ban'i-ty**, 1 ür-ban'i-ti; 2 ür-bän'i-ty, not 1 ür-bē'nr-ti; 2 ür-bä'ni-ty.

**used**, 1 yüzd; 2 yüsd, not 1 yüst; 2 yüst: as, "Get used (yüzd) to study." Especially avoid the vulgarism yü'ster.

**u-surp'**, 1 yu-zürp'; 2 yü-sürp', not 1 yu-sürp'; 2 yü-sürp'.

**ut'ter**. The adjectival use of *utter* in any but an unfavorable sense is erroneous. *Utter nonsense*, not *utter sense*; *utter discord*, not *utter harmony*; *utter darkness*, not *utter light*. The same is true of the adverb *ut'ter-ly*.

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\* In the Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, the spelling, pronunciation, and definition, of each of the more than 100 classes of words was in the care of a specialist in that department, Anglo-African words being supervised by the eminent African explorer, Sir Harry Johnston and the late Sir Henry M. Stanley.

## V

**vac'ci-nate**, 1 *vak'si-nēt*; 2 *vă'či-năt*, *not* 1 *vas'i-nēt*; 2 *văč'i-năt*.

**va-ga'ry**, 1 *vă-gĕ'rī*; 2 *va-ğă'ry*, *not* 1 *vĕ'gĕr-i*; 2 *vă'ğar-y*.

**val'u-a-ble**. Properly used only of things that have monetary worth or that possess a precious or useful character or quality. "One of our most *valued* contributors has sent us several *valuable* articles" is correct. Transposition of the adjectives would make the sentence faulty.

**va'ri-e-gate**, 1 *vĕ'ri-i-gĕt*; 2 *vă'ri-e-ğăt*, *not* 1 *vĕ'ri-gĕt*; 2 *vă'ri-ğăt*, *nor* 1 *vĕ-rai'gĕt*; 2 *vă'-ri'găt*.

**vau-de'ville**, 1 *vôd'vil*; 2 *vôd'vîl*, *not* 1 *vĕd'vil*; 2 *vôd'vîl*, *nor* 1 *vĕ'de-vil'*; 2 *vô'dĕ-vîl'*.

**ve'he-ment**, 1 *vi'hi-ment*; 2 *vĕhem-ĕnt*, *or* 1 *vi'i-ment*; 2 *vĕ'e-mĕnt*, *not* 1 *vi-hi'ment*; 2 *vĕ-hĕ'mĕnt*.

**ve'nal** and **ve'ni-al**. Theft on the part of a starving man is a *venial* sin, but the act is not *venal*; embezzlement by a bank cashier is *venal*, but not *venial*.\*

**ven'i-son**, 1 *ven'i-zən*; 2 *vĕn'i-ṣon*, *or* 1 *ven'zən*; 2 *vĕn'-son*, *not* 1 *ven'i-sun*; 2 *vĕn'i-són*.

**ve-rac'i-ty**. Said only of persons or their statements, not of facts, while *truth* is applicable to both persons and facts. It would be incorrect to speak of the *veracity* of anything that has been done or has come to pass. A man is or is not considered a person of *veracity*; a story is or is not *true*.

**ver-bos'i-ty**, 1 *vär-bes'i-tî*; 2 *ver-bös'i-ty*, *not* 1 *vär-bō'si-tî*; 2 *ver-bō'si-ty*.

**ver'sion**, 1 *vür'-shən*; 2 *vĕr'shon*, *not* 1 *vür'zən*; 2 *vĕr'-zhon*.

**ver'y**, 1 *ver'i*; 2 *vĕr'y*, *not* 1 *var'i*; 2 *văr'y*. See *MERRY*.

**vet'er-i-na-ry**, 1 *vet'ər-i-nĕ-rī*; 2 *vĕt'er-i-nă-ry*, *not* 1 *vĕt'ri-ne-rī*; 2 *vĕt'ri-nĕ-ry*.

**vic'ar**, 1 *vik'ər*; 2 *vĭc'ar*, *not* 1 *vai'kar*; 2 *vĭ'car*.

**vic'i-nage**, 1 *vis'i-nij*; 2 *vĭc'i-naḡ*, *not* 1 *vai'si-nij*; 2 *vĭ'ći-naḡ*.

**vic'to-ry**, 1 *vik'to-rī*; 2 *vĭc'to-ry*, *not* 1 *vik'ter'i*; 2 *vĭc'-tĕr'y*, *nor* 1 *vik'tri*; 2 *vĭc'try*.

**vil'lain**, 1 *vil'in*; 2 *vĭl'in*, *not* 1 *vil'un*; 2 *vil'ün*, *nor* 1 *vil'-yun*; 2 *vĭl'yün*.

**vi"o-lon-cel'lo**, 1 *vĭ'o-lən-chel'lō* [It.] *or* *vai'o-lən-sel'o*; 2 *vĭ'o-lĕn-chĕl'lō* *or* *vĭ'o-lĕn-sĕl'o*. This word has no connection with *violin*. The *violoncello* is a reduced form of the *violone* (1 *vĭ'o-lō'nē*; 2 *vĭ'o-lō'nĕ*), the great medieval double-bass viol, and the name *violoncello* is a diminutive, not of *violin*, but of *violone*.

**vir'u-lent**, 1 *vir'u-lent*; 2 *vĭr'u-lĕnt*, *not* 1 *vür'u-lent*; 2 *vĭr'u-lĕnt*.

\* See *synonyms* under "VENAL" and "VENIAL," as well as the definitions of the two words, in *Funk & Wagnalls NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY*.

**vis'count**, 1 vai'kaunt; 2 vi'eount, *not* 1 vis'kaunt; 2 vis'eoutant.

**vīva'clous**, 1 vai-[or vi-]vē'shus; 2 vi-[or vi-]vā'shus;  
*not* 1 vai-[or vi-]vash'us; 2 vi-[or vi-]văsh'us.

**viz'or**, 1 viz'er; 2 vīz'or, *not* 1 vai'zər; 2 vi'zor.

## W

**waft**, 1 waft; 2 wāft, *not* 1 waft; 2 wăft, *nor* 1 wĕft:  
2 wăft.

**wan'der-ing**, 1 wen'-dér-ing; 2 wān'der-ing, *not* 1 wen'-  
drīng; 2 wān'dring.

**weap'on**, 1 wep'ən; 2 wěp'on, *not* 1 wī'pən; 2 wē'pon.

**Wednes'day**, 1 wenz'di; 2 wěns'dy, *not* 1 wed'næz-di;  
2 wěd'næs-dy.

**went** for **gone**. "If I had *went*." Say rather: "If I had *gone*." The imperfect *went* is often vulgarly used for the past participle *gone* in conjunction with the verb *have*; as, "I have *went* there many times," instead of "I have *gone*," etc.†

**where**. "Where was I at, Mr. Speaker?" This celebrated utterance justly raised a question as to the sobriety of the honorable member. *Where* is not to be followed by *at* or *to*. Not, "*where* is it *at*;" but *where* is it?"; not "*where* are you going *to*;" but simply "*where* are you going?"

**who**. "Who do you refer to?" Say rather: "Whom do you refer to?" *Whom* is the object: "You refer to *whom*;" A more formal question is: "To whom do you refer?"

**whom**. A New York paper asks:

Is it proper for a Judge to scold a Grand Jury from the bench for refusing to indict a person *whom* the Judge thinks ought to be indicted?

Not *whom* but *who*, as the subject of the verb "ought"—"who ought to be indicted." This error of putting the relative in the same case with its antecedent is constantly made. But the case of the relative is determined by the construction of its own clause. Never use *whom* unless you can show of what preposition or verb it is the object. In the instance above quoted, it would be better to change the form of the sentence, saying, for instance, "refusing to indict a person *who*, as the judge thinks, ought to be indicted," or "*who*, in the opinion of the judge, ought," etc.

**will**. See *shall*.

**win'dow**, 1 win'do; 2 wīn'do, *not* 1 win'der; 2 wīn'dēr.

**with-out'**. "I'll come *without* it rains." Say rather:  
"I'll come *unless* it rains."

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† Consult *Faulty Diction* as presented in Funk & Wagnalls  
NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

## Y

**yacht.** Pronounced 1 yet; 2 yăt, *not* 1 yat; 2 yăt.

**yellow,** 1 yel'o; 2 yĕl'o, *not* 1 yel'er; 2 yĕl'ĕr, *nor* 1 yil'o; 2 yĭl'o.

**yon'der,** 1 yen'dər; 2 yĕn'dər, *not* 1 yen'dər; 2 yĕn'dər, *nor* 1 yun'dər; 2 yŭn'dər.

**you and I.** "That will be good for *you and I.*" Better say:—"for *you and me.*" The two pronouns here are in the same construction, and both alike in the objective case. We may omit the first, with the conjunction, when we have "That will be good for (*you and me.*)" Or if we supply before the second pronoun the preposition which is understood, every one will see that the sentence must be: "That will be good for *you and (for) me.*" But you may say: "*You and I* will enjoy that," because in this latter sentence both pronouns are alike nominatives.\*

**youths,** 1 yūfhs; 2 yuths, *not* 1 yūthz; 2 yuths.

## Z

**zeal'ot,** 1 zel'at; 2 zĕl'ot, *not* 1 zī'lət; 2 zē'lot.

**zo"o-log'ic-al,** 1 zō'o-lej'i-kal; 2 zō'o-lög'i-cal, *not* 1 zū'o-lej'i-kal; 2 zū'o-lög'i-eal.

**zo-ol'o-gy,** 1 zo-el'o-ji; 2 zo-öl'o-gy, *not* 1 zū-el'o-ji; 2 zū-öl'o-gy. These and other words with the same first element are in many instances oddly pronounced zū-ology, zū-ophyte, etc.—a mistake that begot Zoo as the abbreviation in England for the Zoological Gardens.

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\* Consult *Faulty Diction* as presented in Funk & Wag  
nall's NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY.

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For Keys to Symbols used, see page 2.

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